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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you agree that installing power poles in Marpi will destroy the tourist spot's natural beauty?

Let your voice be heard!
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

More Complications
Highly toxic plutonium is seeping from the damaged nuclear power plant in Japan into the soil.

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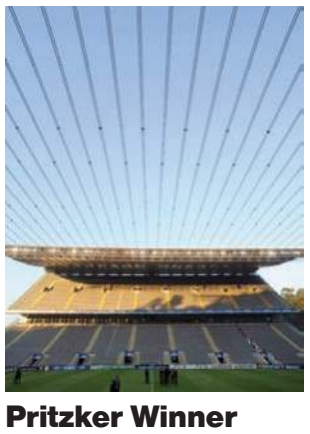
Libya Mayhem
Rebel forces bear down on Moammar Gadhafi's hometown of Sirte.

WORLD...Page 16



Pritzker Winner
Portuguese architect Eduardo Souto de Moura wins the 2011 Pritzker Architecture Prize.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

NMI still free from Japan radiation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI remains free from radiation levels of concern related to the quake-damaged nuclear power plant reactors in Japan, a week after a radiation monitoring device was installed on Saipan.

See NMI on Page 4

Mid-April opening of new dialysis center

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The hospital's new dialysis center is expected to begin operating by mid-April after the government paid to have the facility's reverse osmosis system replaced, according to Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez Tuesday.

"We're hoping that it will be up and running by middle part of April. The vendor's contract for the project [replacement of reverse osmosis system] has been paid and they're perform-

See MID-APRIL on Page 4

Dog tagging to begin in June in Garapan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The implementation of the long-awaited Dog Control Program of the Saipan Mayor's Office will be in full swing starting June, with the office set to tag not only dogs but also cats starting in Garapan.

"I'm happy that this program is finally getting off the ground,"

See DOG on Page 4

CLARISSA DAVID
Mayor Donald G. Flores shows off one of the dog tags during a news briefing at his office yesterday afternoon.

CLUB DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the Shirley's Football Club join the beautification project of the Oleai Elementary School on March 26, 2011. Parents, players, and coaches joined the cleanup and helped in painting 10 drums that the football club later donated to the school for use as trash cans.

Tug-of-war over Coral Ocean Pt. lease extension

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands said yesterday it is still negotiating with Suwaso Corp. Inc., the company that runs Coral Ocean Point, on a proposed 15-year extension of its land lease but some Saipan lawmakers have already expressed opposition to the proposal.

Lawmakers' approval is needed for any 15-year extension of 25-year public land leases.

DPL Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said Coral Ocean Point provided DPL three weeks ago with additional documents supporting its re-

See TUG-OF-WAR on Page 4

Governor said to be considering reinstating CUC board. PAGE 2
No autopsy was conducted on drowning victim. PAGE 5

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Local

Governor said to be considering reinstating CUC board

» **Fitial wants as many renewable energy providers as possible**
» **Governor still pushing for extension of umbrella permits**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is considering the reinstatement of a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors, five years after he abolished the body through an executive order and placed the agency under the administration's watch.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the reinstatement of a board of directors is "something that the governor is considering."

"However, the absence of a board…does not mean CUC lacks the duty and authority, through the executive director, to conduct activities on behalf of CUC," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fitial

Fitial abolished the CUC board of directors in 2006 for efficiency, through the first executive order he signed in January 2006, barely days after he was sworn into office for his first term.

On Monday, the governor lifted CUC's emergency status to restore the application of procurement and hiring rules at the utilities agency.

In line with this, the governor is encouraging investors to respond to CUC's current request for proposals on solar photovoltaic generation as his administration tries to maximize use of alternative or renewable energy sources rather than rely on fossil fuel.

He said there's also a plan to issue biomass and geothermal energy RFPs later this year.

This comes after Fitial met Friday with representatives of an Australian firm, KUTh Energy Ltd. which claims in its website as "one of Australia's leading geothermal energy companies."

Fitial said the company has identified areas where they could drill. He said KUTh Energy wants to drill down to 2,000 meters.

"I'm trying to bring in as many renewable [energy companies] as we can because the only way to reduce diesel [reliance] is replace it with renewable," he said.

Fitial said he expects to have solar and biomass energy producers in the CNMI within the year, while geothermal energy—which he is strongly pushing for—will take 18 to 19 months.

Besides Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, lawmakers have also been visited by over a dozen alternative energy producers from different countries for several months now.

A newly-signed law also removed the $250 million price tag for the privatization of CUC.

Federalization

The governor also said he continues to push for an amendment to U.S. Public Law 110-229, which placed CNMI immigration under federal control.

One of the reasons is to extend the period of time for umbrella permits to remain in force, from two years to four years, and extend the federalization transition period from the end of 2014 to the end of 2019.

Fitial, who went to Washington, D.C. in February, said he has not officially received any statement from the federal government regarding a grant of extension on either the transition period or the umbrella permit.

The CNMI-issued umbrella permits, which allow mostly foreign workers and their immediate relatives to remain in the CNMI, will expire on Nov. 28, 2011.

"It is for me to ask, it is not for me to tell you what chances they have because I've been asking for extension. I've been telling you people that I have been asking for extension because I don't want these alien labor to go away. We need them," he said.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is expected to issue a transitional worker rule before the expiration of the CNMI umbrella permits.

Fitial said nobody knows when DHS will issue such regulations.

DHS' self-imposed deadline to issue the regulations is March 2011.

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Autism Awareness Walkathon on April 2

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hundreds of community members are expected to participate in the Autism Awareness Walkathon slated for Saturday, April 2, at the Saipan airport's football field.

The walkathon is a fundraising event organized by the National Honor Society Alliance, a group of students from Kagman High School, Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, Grace Christian Academy, and Mount Carmel School.

Maria Balajadia of Mount Carmel School said the purpose of the event is to spread autism awareness in the CNMI since many parents, teachers, and other children remain unaware about autistic behavior.

According to Balajadia, this lack of knowledge and awareness leads to children with autism being called "weird" or shunned by their peers.

"Though we know that we won't be able to change things with just one walkathon, we are hoping that this walkathon will be a stepping stone to that change," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Balajadia said the walkathon will be held just around the airport football field.

Registration for the walkathon will start at 6am and participants will be asked to donate $3, with the first 100 donors getting T-shirts.

"Funds will be used to purchase magazines, books, and other informative material for schools and/or parents as well as donated to the Autism Society here in the CNMI," said Balajadia.

She noted that those who are not going to donate will still need to register for the event.

Walkathon participants must sign a waiver form that is available at any of the five schools that are part of the National Honor Society Alliance.

The waiver forms will also be available at the walkathon venue but participants below 17 years old and below would need their parents to sign the form.

For more information, contact Balajadia by email at maria.balajadia@gmail.com or call 285-9375.

Ex-convict says lawyers did not give her proper advice; asks court's help

A woman convicted of engaging in an income tax refund scheme conspiracy has asked for help from the federal court, saying her two lawyers who represented her in the case allegedly did not explain to her the consequences of entering a guilty plea.

Antonieta B. Aguon, in a handwritten letter to the U.S. District Court for the NMI, said she was convicted in 2007 and that her court-appointed counsels, Stephanie Flores and Loren Sutton, did not give her proper legal advice.

Aguon, a nonresident, said the two lawyers did not explain to her that if she pleads guilty, she will be facing deportation in the near future.

She also asked the court to provide her a lawyer since she is currently hard up.

Aguon had pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit false claims against the U.S. government.

The federal court had sentenced Aguon in September 2007 to 22 months in prison, with credit for the time she had already spent in jail.

The judge ordered Aguon to pay the U.S. Internal Revenue Service $791 as restitution for tax year 2005 and another $4,755 for tax year 2006, for a total of $5,546.

Aguon allegedly taught a co-defendant how to use fraudulent U.S. addresses for CNMI residents in order to claim eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit and how to use online sites to do this. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Repair work on Engine 5 at Power Plant 1 completed

» CUC submits 'clean, on-time' audit

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has completed repairs on one of Power Plant 1's engines ahead of schedule and the agency submitted its financial audit on time—a first for the utilities company in the last 20 years.

Executive director Abe Utu Malae said that Mecron Polyweld successfully repaired engine No. 5 ahead of schedule.

"The location of the offending crack was on the upper side of cylinder No. 5. The contractor used a cold welding process and the weldment can withstand pressure up to 3,000 psi [pounds per square inch]," said Malae yesterday, adding that this was only the second time that CUC used the method to fix such a problem.

Malae said that work on engine No. 5 costs CUC $88,000; the warranty is for a year.

"The stitching demonstrates the level of maintenance and repair that must be undertaken in order to keep the power on. Power Plant 1 was deemed a complete loss several years ago and a brand new power plant was recommended. The power generation engineers, technicians, and fitters have proved that prognosis premature," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said the plant still has about seven to 10 years of life remaining.

Malae lauded the efforts of the workers and funding from the Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs and the stimulus monies for the success of CUC projects. He specifically commended Dennis Villagomez, electrical supervisor; and Leo Cabrera, the mechanical supervisor at power plants 1 and 2 for the progress in both power plants.

'Clean, on-time'

Malae is also pleased with the agency's financial audit, which was completed on time.

"First time in 20 years: CUC 2010 financial audit clean and on time," he said yesterday.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC received its audited financial statements from its public auditors on March 28, ahead of schedule and unqualified.

"This is a major accomplishment for the utility, which has been advised by a couple of auditing firms that this is the first time in 20 years of CUC's existence that the audit was 'clean' and on time. Being on time helps push the CNMI government audit up a notch," he said, adding that CUC was among two CNMI component units that were late in their audit reports last year.

Malae said independent auditor Scott Magliari & Company was satisfied with the statements CUC submitted for the audit report.

"As for the change in net assets [deficit] before extraordinary items, this has improved continuously," he said.

In 2008, CUC recorded a $14.1 million deficit in its net assets; in 2009, $10.8 million; and in 2010, $1.9 million.

"It was sheer hard work and correct application of accounting principles that resulted in the audits being completed on time and unqualified. Credit goes to Mr. Tony Muña, our previous executive director, who in turn hired our chief accountant, Arlene Lizama, and then our chief financial officer Charles Warren. Awesome team!" added Malae.

DPH adds 3 doctors; CHC now has 27

The Commonwealth Health Center now has a total of 27 physicians following the recruitment of three more doctors this month, according to Esther Muña, acting deputy secretary for hospital administration yesterday.

She said these 27 physicians include locum doctors or short-term hires.

DPH offers two-year contracts to its personnel; short-term contracts range from three months to six months, depending on need.

This month, the hospital welcomed three new hires: Dr. Shun C. Young, a surgeon; Nicholas J. Box , a physician assistant for the emergency unit; and Dr. Kathleen Fedack, an anesthesiologist. The three signed two-year contracts and are already working.

Muña said the hospital still needs eight more physicians to achieve desired staffing for all units and departments. Recruitment and hiring is ongoing and she expects the positions to be filled within the year.

The emergency room now has three physicians and two physician assistants. The department is still scouting for two more doctors. The internal medicine section has five doctors but DPH wants to hire three more. The pediatric department has four but DPH wants to hire three more to make it seven.

Of the 27 physicians at CHC, two are serving as locums.

The number of physicians at CHC fluctuates from month to month due to retirement, resignation, relocation, and other reasons. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

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TOYOTA

Angel Ray gives books to 2 schools

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Young philanthropist and teen cancer survivor Angel Ray T. Guerrero continues to spread cheer to CNMI children, with his donations of educational toys and books to Tanapag Elementary School and San Vicente Elementary School on Friday.

Guerrero presented one box each of books and educational toys to the two schools' second graders.

"The joy of seeing their faces when they got new things, that's a good feeling," Guerrero said yesterday.

Guerrero made the donations to the two schools a day after receiving cases of books, educational games, and toys from the Library of Congress Surplus Book Program, through Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan.

Guerrero was accompanied by his father Joseph Lee Guerrero, his mother Victoria Tudela Guerrero, and his cousins Luizi Reyes, Herman J. Guerrero, and Niki Villagomez at the presentation of the books at the delegate's office.

Guerrero, who is also the *Saipan Tribune*'s 2010 Person of the Year for inspiring a community to think outside the box to be able to reach out to others, said yesterday he's happy to continue giving to other children when he can.

He was only 11 years old when he underwent surgery for brain tumor. It was during his recuperation that he thought about helping others, when he saw other children and patients like him who needed as much help as they can.

He has since partnered with Hawaii State Rep. Glenn Wakai, now a state senator, and Delegate Sablan to obtain donated books, used and new toys, educational toys, books, wheelchairs, television sets, hospital bed linens, and other materials from off island which he in turn gives out to community members.

April Foo's Foosball Tourney on Saturday

Oleai Beach Bar & Grill is hosting the First Annual, International, CNMI, Open Derby, No Holds Barred, Winner Take All (Second and Third Place Take Some), Friendship, April Foo's Foosball Tourney this Saturday, April 2, starting at 1pm!

Sign up today or anytime before noon on Saturday. There's no fee to play, and each participant in the tourney will get a free Mello Yello or Foremost Ice Cream, plus tons of foosball fun, a gorgeous ocean view, great company among friends, heated competition, and awesome food and drinks. Winning teams get cool prizes from Docomo, Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, and Mello Yello. There will also be a special $1 raffle benefiting the Commonwealth Cancer Association—more chances to win awesome prizes! Reserve your spot today by calling Oleai Beach Bar & Grill at 235-1756; ask for Tami. ***(PR)***

NMI

From Page 1

The CNMI Nuclear Response Task Force said yesterday that the RadNet deployable unit that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency installed on island continues to indicate that only "background radiation" is present in the atmosphere.

EPA said background external exposure rates typically range between 0.005 and 0.020 millirem per hour (mR/hr)—levels that are thousands of times below any conservative level of concern.

Background or normal radiation is the form of radiation that is constantly present in the environment and is emitted from a variety of natural and artificial sources.

The latest round of filter results can be found at http://epa.gov/japan2011/rert/radnet-data-map.html#results.

Data from EPA's monitoring device on Saipan is available at http://epa.gov/japan2011/rert/deployable-data/radnet-saipan-exp-rate.html.

In general, if there are particulates from radiation fallout in the CNMI, the RadNet unit will be indicating results in the range of 0.06 mR/hr.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, who is a member of the CNMI Nuclear Response Task Force, said they received yesterday a communication from EPA indicating that during detailed filter analyses from 12 RadNet air monitor locations across the nation, EPA identified trace amounts of radioactive isotopes consistent with the Japanese nuclear incident.

"Some of the filter results show levels slightly higher than those found by EPA monitors last week and a Department of Energy monitor the week before. These types of findings are to be expected in the coming days and are still far below levels of public health concern," Demapan said.

EPA's samples were captured by monitors in Alaska, Alabama, California, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Northern Mariana Islands, and Washington State over the past week and sent to EPA scientists for detailed laboratory analysis.

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan thanked EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and her team for recognizing that the CNMI should be one of the 12 locations in the United States that receives detailed analysis of particles collected from their radiation monitoring equipment.

"We are all glad to see that the data EPA is collecting continues to show no harmful level of air-borne radiation. It is also a very good policy decision to have all of the data being collected from the monitor on Saipan and from monitors all around the U.S. Pacific available online for anyone to see," said Sablan.

He urged Jackson to consider the advisability of maintaining the Saipan monitor as a permanent component of EPA's national radiation measurement network.

The CNMI has been closely monitoring its environment, incoming passengers and cargo for any radioactive fallout from Japan, as precautionary measures.

Besides the RADNet deployable unit, the CNMI has sent air samples to the EPA's laboratory in Alabama for analysis. CNMI-bound mail and cargo are also now undergoing additional checks for radiation in Guam.

The checks have so far indicated no harmful levels of radiation in the CNMI.

DOG

From Page 1

said Mayor Donald G. Flores in a news briefing at his office yesterday afternoon.

According to Flores, Ray B. Lizama will serve as the program director, tasked to oversee that the objective of eliminating stray animals on island is achieved.

Lizama disclosed that the licensing and registration of animals, initially scheduled to begin on May 3, was moved to June 6 since they have to wait for the bilingual version of the Saipan and Northern Islands Dog Control Act to become available and posted in the *Commonwealth Register*.

"We will start with the tagging first. The mayor wants to focus in this direction. I know a lot of people are positive about this because finally, it's getting off the ground," he said.

Schedule and fees

Lizama said their personnel will visit every village to issue tags to dog owners, with Garapan as the first village to be accommodated.

Registration will be held from June 6 to 16, 9am to 4pm, at the Carolinian Utt.

He said they now have 10,000 tags in five colors, with seven additional colors to arrive soon so that each of the 12 villages will have its corresponding color tag.

License fees for dogs will vary, depending on whether or not the dogs are neutered or not.

For altered or neutered dogs, a one-year license fee costs $6; two years, $10; three years, $14; four years, $18; five years, $24.

Owners will be required to present valid vaccination documents to avail of these fees.

For non-altered or non-neutered dogs, a one-year license fee costs $10; two years, $18; three years, $26; four years, $34; five years, $42.

For altered "senior citizens" or dogs owned by residents aged 60 years and above, a one-year license fee costs $5; two years, $8; three years, $10; four years, $12; five years, $15.

The fees for cats will be clarified in coming days.

Lizama noted that they will not hold licensing and registrations during austerity Fridays and legal holidays.

The rest of the schedule will be published in the newspapers in coming weeks, he added.

Significant part

According to Flores, the tagging phase is a significant part of the program that can be done while waiting for the architectural design of the stray animal facility to be finalized.

"Dog tagging will help us determine which dogs belong to owners from those that are abandoned or homeless," he explained.

Once the dogs are tagged, Flores said they would now go after stray animals that loiter in the streets and pose a danger to both tourists and residents.

Flores added that the tagging and licensing fees will also provide more funding for a program that has "very limited budget."

"We're starting the program with whatever budget we have. The tagging fees can be used to get whatever supplies we will need to continue the program," he said.

Although the program is named as such, Lizama said it will include other stray animals such as cats.

"Our focus is mainly on dogs because of the abundance of stray dogs on island," he said.

Staff training

According to Flores, the program will have about four to six staff that will be in charge of tagging and impounding stray animals.

"Some of them have already been trained while the rest will receive training from the Division of Fish and Wildlife in the next few weeks," added Lizama.

He urged the public to cooperate as they carry out the program.

"It takes a lot of planning and collaboration with other involved agencies and groups to put this program into action. Given our limited funding and staff, we'll try to accommodate everybody as much as we can," he said.

For information, contact Lizama at 234-6208 or email dogcontrolprogram.mos2011@yahoo.com.

MID-APRIL

From Page 1

ing all the work," he said.

The opening of the hemodialysis center has been delayed for many years due to the lack of Medicare certification.

As part of Medicare's procedure, the facility will be allowed to operate and function for a certain period of time to test its performance before it is awarded a Medicare certification, Villagomez said. Any decision to continue operations will depend on the result of the Medicate assessment.

The dialysis center has a total of 38 stations capable of treating 27 patients all at the same time.

Saipan Tribune learned that in order to participate in the Medicare program, the water treatment system, including the reverse osmosis system, must meet the Food and Drug Administration's 510(k) requirements.

Once the reverse osmosis system receives its FDA certification, CHC has to inform Medicare of the facility's readiness for a resurvey and ask for approval to transfer the old dialysis unit at the hospital to the new site.

The government paid $150,000 to address problems with the center's reverse osmosis system and have it 510(k) certified.

The dialysis project was initiated in 2004 during the administration of former governor Juan L. Babauta. It wasn't completed on time, however, due to funding issues. Moreover, serious problems were discovered, including flaws in its design. The case was settled by DPH and the contractor for $2 million last year.

TUG-OF-WAR

From Page 1

quest for lease extension. These include potential financial infusion to build more facilities such as new cottages and remodeling of existing cottages.

The land lease will expire in August 2011.

At the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation session yesterday, members took turns expressing their views on the request for extension.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) echoed Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's statement in December that he does not support extending the Coral Ocean Point lease, citing the owner's failure to fulfill its obligations and promises, including $4 million in supposed "public contribution."

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that "the governor maintains his stance on this issue."

Reyes said as far as he remembers, many Senate members do not support the land lease extension.

He said there are other investors "interested" in the same property.

The senator also said there's been a rumor going around that Suwaso Corp. wants the lease extension so it can negotiate with another investor to take over the property.

He said Suwaso Corp. can sublease, transfer, or assign the lease after obtaining a lease extension.

"If that rumor is true, then there's no need for the Legislature to extend the existing lease. Why don't the CNMI just directly negotiate with that new investor or investors? There are investors waiting in line for a decision on the lease extension request," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune*.

He, however, did not want to disclose the names of these investors.

Fitial on Monday also said there are investors wanting to "buy" hotels on Saipan.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), for his part, said there may be a need to conduct an oversight hearing or call in DPL and Suwaso Corp. about the land lease.

'Not true'

Takahiro Omori, assistant general manager of Coral Ocean Point, said yesterday that this rumor is "not true."

He said Suwaso Corp. is very much interested in having the lease extended and continue to own Coral Ocean Point.

Omori said the capital investment on the property was $20 million.

"DPL is still reviewing our request," he added.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said it is still premature to decide on Coral Ocean Point's request for extension because the lease won't expire until August.

Benavente said the Legislature should at least wait for DPL's formal recommendation for approval or rejection of the requested lease extension.

"It's still premature for us to debate on this. We don't know what's going to happen. What if we decide to not approve it, and then we don't get any better deal or any deal at all? It's only right that the CNMI still negotiate with them," he said.

Reyes said besides the rumor of Suwaso's intention about Coral Ocean Point, he has learned that the Japanese owners of the hotel have also failed to fulfill the requirements of the original lease, including building condominium units, maintaining the beach area in the property, and for not contributing $4 million to the community when it first proposed a lease extension.

Coral Ocean Point is a hotel and golf course in southern Saipan. Its owner spent over $20 million to build a 55-room hotel and develop the golf course and other facilities during the first 12 years of operations.

SHEFA board member confirmation

In other news, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation confirmed yesterday another nominee to the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board.

The delegation approved the nomination of Josephine Sablan by a vote of 14-2.

Of the 16 members present during the voting, only Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) voted no. Five members were absent.

IN TOURIST'S DROWNING AT OBYAN IN 2006

No autopsy was conducted on drowning victim

»'2 companions in control of deceased's parents' bank accounts'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

No autopsy was conducted in the CNMI on Kiyohisa Ichikawa, a 22-year-old Japanese tourist who reportedly drowned at Obyan Beach in 2006. A Japan court last week had determined that Ichikawa was possibly murdered in order for his two traveling companions to collect 100 million yen in insurance.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Sgt. Thomas A. Blas Jr. confirmed with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that was no autopsy conducted on Ichikawa because then chief prosecutor Jefferey Warfield Sr. had issued a memorandum, saying that no autopsy would be required to determine the victim's cause of death.

Blas said a Boating Safety investigator told him yesterday that Warfield made the decision after reviewing the reports submitted by DPS Boating Safety investigators.

Blas said that investigators had concluded that Ichikawa died of drowning and the case was then closed.

"I can't comment any further than that because the autopsy was never done on the victim," he said.

The DPS spokesman said the victim and his belongings were officially released to the victim's next of kin on June 28, 2006. Blas said Warfield authorized the release.

Blas said he has no information as to who received the body and the belongings.

Japanese police or investigators did come to Saipan and asked for a copy of the report on Ichikawa's death and DPS' findings, said Blas quoting Boating Safety.

Under DPS standard procedures, if new information comes in that puts in question the cause of a person's death, DPS will conduct a follow up and reopen the case, he said.

If investigators find there is evidence supporting a finding of homicide, then the case would be reclassified as such, he added.

Blas said Boating Safety investigators were surprised with the development of the case as they were not aware that it had been reopened in Japan.

In a story published by Japanese newspaper *Yomiuri Shimbun*'s Chubu edition last week, a Japanese court had concluded that Ichikawa's two companions had control of the deceased's parents' bank accounts.

A Saipan-based Japanese interpreter told *Saipan Tribune* that the Gifu District Court in Japan had determined that the companions were the supposedly de facto recipients of the 100 million yen insurance policy.

The interpreter said the court had concluded that Tokio Marine does not have to pay the insurance money the deceased's parents were claiming in a civil lawsuit.

Saipan Tribune files indicate that Ichikawa drowned at Obyan Beach on June 27, 2006, and that he had two companions when the incident happened.

The interpreter said the court recognized that the companions—Ichikawa's brother-in-law and his friend—were having financial difficulties with the companies they were running.

The court reportedly found out that Ichikawa's death was suspicious as the water depth at the site was waist high at the time and that there were no external injury usually caused by corals.

The interpreter said the reports did not mention whether the two companions has been arrested in Japan. However, the Gifu Prefecture police had already started looking into the case.

During the litigation of the lawsuit, Tokio Marine pointed out that Ichikawa had never bought an insurance policy before except in this one instance at the urging of his traveling companions.

Tokio Marine noted that the two companions had prior records in the past 10 years of 36 traffic accidents, all of which they made insurance claims on.

According to the DPS report, DPS Central received a call at 2:27pm on June 27, 2006, about a drowning incident at Obyan Beach.

Medics transported Ichikawa to the Commonwealth Health Center where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Fund projects $8M shortfall in pension payouts

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Based on current trends, the NMI Retirement Fund projects an $8 million shortfall in its pension payouts by the time the fiscal year ends six months from now, according to administrator Richard Villagomez.

To cover the shortfall, Villagomez said he will ask to the board to allow the Fund to go beyond the amount it is authorized to withdraw from its investments this fiscal year.

The board of trustees had capped at $54 million the amount the Fund may liquidate from its investments. The amount is supposed to cover pension obligations to members from October 2010 to September 2011.

Based on their latest projection, Villagomez said that the drawdown is expected to reach $62 million by Sept. 30, 2011, due to the government's unpaid employer contributions.

"The amount is for the projected shortfall in pension payouts. Between now and the end of fiscal year, we have to monitor the trend of cash flow…and most likely we will increase the drawdown," said Villagomez yesterday.

The drawdown is used to pay for the pension benefits of members and other obligations. Last fiscal year, the Fund's total drawdown—also capped at $54 million—amounted to just $40 million due to increased government contributions and the remittance of taxes pursuant to a court judgment. This meant the Fund "saved" by some $14 million.

Due to dwindling government revenue this year, however, "it doesn't look like it's going to happen," said Villagomez.

The Fund draws down an average of $2.4 million each month this fiscal year.

On Tuesday, Fund board chair Sixto Igisomar told *Saipan Tribune* that, although the government is court-mandated to increase its contributions to 30 percent in fiscal year 2011, this hasn't happened yet.

The court had determined in June 2009 that the central government owes the Fund over $231 million in unpaid employer's contributions. This has now increased to over $317 million.

Interviews

The board of trustees began interviewing yesterday about 20 finalists for the Fund's money managers' positions. A total of 76 firms had applied for the posts.

In a special meeting at 1pm yesterday, applicants were interviewed via video-conference during a closed-door session.

Wilshire Associates managing director and principal Maggie Ralbovsky helped conduct the interviews. Wilshire is the Fund's new investment consultant.

The Fund has nine money managers that handle its portfolio, currently valued at $318 million and invested in stock and money market funds, government bonds, corporate bonds, common stocks, and hedge funds.

Labor employees opting to leave

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The number of personnel at the Department of Labor has been reduced by half as majority of employees have decided to leave, according to Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas.

San Nicolas told *Saipan Tribune* that a lot of employees have opted to retire, while others either moved to the U.S. mainland or found other jobs.

From 88 employees, he said they are now down to 38.

"We're short but it's manageable," the secretary said.

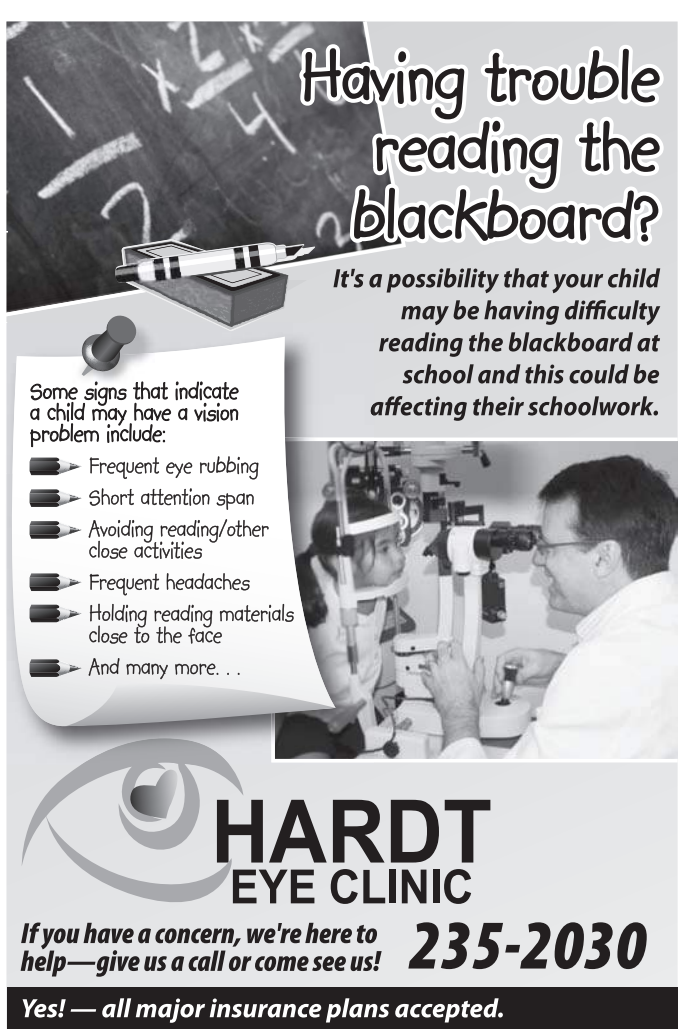
The latest one to leave is Cinta Kaipat, who resigned as Labor deputy secretary in late February, reportedly because of her health.

Since federalization kicked in, San Nicolas said that Labor has been focusing on assisting U.S. citizens find jobs. "We're continuing to place qualified U.S. citizens in the workforce," he said.

As to enforcement matters, San Nicolas said they are still wrapping up several Labor cases.

He said they still have work as far as assisting alien workers who have previously filed Labor complaints.

Since last week, many of Labor's offices in San Antonio were empty as employees have been slowly moving their things to new offices on Capital Hill to save on $200,000 in annual office rental.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Marianas Medical Center in San Antonio on Friday, April 1st 9am-5pm
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NIMO donates 35 recycled trash bins to public schools

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Islands Mayor's Office proved yesterday that ordinary oil drums may be turned into useful trash bins, once painted with colorful designs and environment-friendly messages.

Mayor Tobias Aldan led the presentation of 35 recycled drums to seven public elementary schools yesterday morning at the mayor's office on Capital Hill.

The recipients were Gregorio T. Camacho, Koblerville, Tanapag, Garapan, William S. Reyes, San Antonio, and Oleai elementary schools.

School representatives, including some students, attended the presentation of the donated drums.

NIMO program manager Jerome Kaipat Aldan said the drums were leftovers from the terrestrial survey conducted last year by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife with the Department of Land and Natural Resources and NIMO personnel.

Aldan said the donation will teach students to be environment-friendly and how to get rid of their waste properly.

"It's a small donation but it's going to be a good help for your schools," he told students.

Aldan also told school representatives and students that if they need yard services for the maintenance of their schools, NIMO staff would be willing to help.

"When you need our help, feel free to call our office," he added.

Marji Pangelinan, vice principal for William S. Reyes Elementary School, said NIMO's donation was a "very kind gesture."

"The drums are something we can reuse as part of our in-house recycling program and will especially come in handy during big activities in our school," Pangelinan told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the NIMO staff did a wonderful job in decorating the drums.

Koblerville Elementary School vice principal Jack Sablan said schools are very fortunate to have government agencies that help them in one way or another.

"The bottom line is that these drums will help maintain the cleanliness of our campus. We hope that more government agencies will show their support to public schools," said Sablan.

NIMO expressed its appreciation to the federal and local Fish and Wildlife offices, Rep. George Camacho for donating the paint used for the drums, and to community members who also made donations for the cause.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Northern Islands Mayor Tobias Aldan, second from left, leads the presentation of 35 recycled drums to representatives of the seven public elementary schools who were recipients of the donation yesterday morning on Capital Hill.

US govt seeks jury and bench trial for alleged bat poachers

The U.S. government has asked the federal court to conduct a simultaneous jury and bench trial for three alleged Marianas fruit bat poachers.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk W. Schuler said that holding a simultaneous jury and bench trial removes the possibility of the jury wrongly considering Adrian Mendiola's statement against his co-defendants, David Santos and Albert Taitano, because the court—not the jury—would determine the fate of Santos and Taitano.

Schuler said that only Mendiola is entitled to a jury trial and only with regard to the Lacey Act violation alleged in count two. The four other charges, Schuler said, can be tried by the judge.

The indictment had charged Mendiola with unlawfully possessing a threatened species, and unlawfully transporting, receiving, and acquiring a taken threatened species.

The indictment charged Santos and Taitano each with unlawfully taking a threatened species.

Count five alleges the forfeiture of the Marianas fruit bats. Mendiola's freezer allegedly contained fruit bats, and .410 gauge shotguns.

According to the U.S. government, the alleged violations relate to poaching incidents in 2008 when two of the few remaining breeding colonies of the Mariana fruit bats on Rota were decimated by hunters using 12-gauge and .410 shotguns. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Saipan Tribune
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If your company wants to participate in our program,
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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-11-018 (RE-BID)

Inspection and Integrity Testing of Above Ground Oil Storage Tank (AST) and Connected Pipeline – CUC Rota, CNMI – Revision # 1

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting revised competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced engineering and certified specialist firms for the Inspection and Integrity Testing of the Above Ground Oil Storage Tank (AST) and connected pipeline within the secondary containment, as included in this solicitation.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) and the United States District Court entered into a Stipulated Order Number Two (SO No. 2) for Preliminary Injunctive Relief under Civil Case No. CV 08-0051 (Section 1.1). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed the civil action seeking injunctive relief under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This work shall satisfy the requirement in Section IV, Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness, Paragraphs # 28 Tank System Integrity Testing Workplan and Implementation for CUC Power plants 1 and 2 and # 41 Rota Power Plant Integrity Inspection Program.

The Power Plant in Rota is located in Song Song Village near the Rota Seaport, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The Scope-of-Work will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested bidders, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until March 28, 2011.**

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-018 (RE-BID),Inspection and Integrity Testing of the Above Ground Oil Storage Tank (AST) and connected pipeline, CUC Rota, Revision No.1" the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No.4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **April 7, 2011 at 10:00 AM, (ChST) local time**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement &Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **April 1, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Managing Engineer, Power generation, via email venu@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective bidders who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Invitation for Bid in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Cervical cancer is caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV).
The HPV vaccine can prevent cervical cancer.

We got vaccinated for HPV

Now it's your turn!

Department of Public Health HPV Vaccination team will be visiting High Schools and Jr. High Schools on these following dates:

- 8:30am - 12:00pm, March 29, 2011 - Kagman High School
- 12:30pm - 2:30pm, March 29, 2011 - Saipan Southern High School
- 8:30am - 12:00pm, March 30, 2011 - Hopwood Jr. High School
- 8:30am - 12:00pm, March 31, 2011 - Chacha Oceanview Jr. High School

CNMI Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Public School System

This ad is brought to you by the Department of Public Health Comprehensive Cancer Control Program with 100% funding from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

CUC sets temporary water hours

»Schedule to affect Chalan Galaide, Navy Hill, Lower Navy Hill, Upper Chinatown, Chinatown areas

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be implementing temporary water delivery hours for customers in the Chalan Galaide, Navy Hill, Lower Navy Hill, Upper Chinatown, and Chinatown areas effective today until April 11, 2011.

The temporary water services are as follows:

- Chalan Galaide: 5:30am to 7am
- Navy Hill: 5:30am to 7am
- Lower Navy Hill: 7am to 8:30am
- Upper Chinatown: 7am to 8:30am
- Chinatown: 8:30am to 10am

The temporary water hours are necessary to allow crews to replace failed equipment on Calhoun Well. Customers in the higher elevation areas of Chalan Galaide, Upper Navy Hill, and Upper Chinatown can expect reduced pressures during this period.

CUC apologizes for the inconvenience and asks that residents practice strict water conservation during the listed time period. For more information, contact Alan Fletcher, deputy director for Water & Wastewater Operations, at 235-7025 to 7032, Ext. 155, or Mariano Iglecias, Water & Wastewater operations manager at 322-5030 to 5034. ***(CUC)***

NMC English institute gets federal certification

The Northern Marianas College recently received federal certification to enroll international students in its English Language Institute. International students had already been enrolled in the ELI but they did so by also enrolling in a separate degree program like business management or nursing to take English courses. With this certification, international students now have the option of taking only English courses in the standalone ELI Program.

Granting the certification is the Student Exchange Visitor Program, under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The program uses a Web-based database, the Student Exchange Visitor Information System, to gather, monitor, and access information on foreign students participating in exchange or educational programs in the U.S. and its territories.

The English Language Institute, under the Language and Humanities Department, offers English courses in Writing, Reading, and Speaking and Listening development by using the newest building on campus, Building M.

The building features a state-of-the-art language lab, equipped with computers and software, with which students may practice the English skills they learn in the program. The equipment, along with the furniture, was financed by the NMC Foundation.

"This is an important milestone for the college's English Language Institute," says Language and Humanities Department chair Jim Kline. "SEVP recognizes that many international students in the region are interested in studying English and NMC is one of the best places to do so."

Interested students may contact the Office of Admissions & Records at 234-5498 ext. 1523 for program and admission information. ***(NMC)***

Resolution honors former Rota mayor

The House of Representatives has adopted a resolution that pays tribute to a former Rota senator and mayor.

Authored by Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota), House Resolution 17-45 honors Benjamin Taisacan Manglona for his distinguished career in public office and his exemplary contributions to the CNMI.

The resolution was presented to Manglona yesterday.

Manglona

Manglona, who turns 73 on Thursday, holds an Engineering Technology degree from the Honolulu Community College and an associate degree in Civil Engineering Technology from the University of Guam.

Manglona's career began as a Junior Engineering aide before he was promoted to a supervisory position. He also served as the assistant clerk of court and station manager for Continental Air Micronesia.

Manglona started his political career when he was elected as a member of the Marianas District Legislature in 1963 and became a representative in the Congress of Micronesia during the Trust Territory government.

In 1978, he became a senator in the first CNMI Legislature and was re-elected until the sixth Legislature before he was elected as lieutenant governor in 1990 then served as mayor of Rota in 1998 for two consecutive terms.

"The Honorable Benjamin Taisacan Manglona's esteemed public service has benefited the entire Commonwealth and serves as an example of excellence," the resolution states. ***(Clarissa David)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
"This notice is paid for with HUD funds by NMHC"
March 30, 2011

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, wish to announce that Annual Community Assessment Report Program Year 2009 is available for the public's review and comments. Comments may be directed to Ms. Jeannie P. Mafnas, Grant Writer/Planner, NMHC Central Office, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by fax to (670) 234-9021. Deadline for the comment period is April 29, 2011, no later than 4:30 p.m.

The ACA Report is available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact Ms. Jeannie P. Mafnas for arrangements by calling (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman, NMHC

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer."

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PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
REPROGRAMMING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Program Year	Activity No.	Activity Type	Activity Name	Activity Status	Amount from program	Reprogram to
2009	438	Public Facilities	Carolinas Heights Basketball Court	Ongoing	$162,000	
2008	389	Public Facilities	Rehabilitation of the GTC Elementary School	Canceled	$800,000	
2008	390	Public Facilities	NMIFA Soccer Facility	Canceled	$299,775	
2009		Public Facilities	Architectural and Engineering Design Services for the GTC Elementary School Library Expansion	New		$10,000
2008/2009		Public Facilities	Rehabilitation of Saipan and Rota Fire Stations	New		$823,090
2008/2009		Public Facilities	Purchase of (2) Ambulance for the Saipan Fire Station	New		$206,000
2008/2009		Public Facilities	Purchase of Life Saving and Fire Protection Equipment For Saipan and Rota Fire Stations	New		$222,685
Total					$1,261,775	$1,261,775

The public is invited to provide written and oral comments on the proposed reprogramming. Written comments will be accepted no later than 4:30 p.m., April 29, 2011, at the main office in Garapan, Post Office Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Oral comments may be relayed to Jeannie P. Mafnas at telephone number (670) 234-7670, 6866, 7689, or 9447. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations to submit comments may also contact Jeannie P. Mafnas at the telephone numbers above for assistance.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ, F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- THERESE LIZAMA SALAS, Defendant.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0033 SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP, 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:
/s/ Clerk of Court

Dated this 17th day of March, 2011

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Marvic Pinaula Castro on your 23rd birthday today, March 30, 2011! May God bless you on your special day and may you have many more birthdays to come. We love you very much! Greetings coming out from your loving Mom, Dad, sisters, and brothers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Brianna Mae Paraiso, who is celebrating her second birthday today, March 30, 2011! We wish you good health and more blessings to come. We love you. Greetings come from Tita Osang and Tito Onching.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 30, 1999

CDA targets more home loans for 2000

The Commonwealth Development Authority is targeting to close at least 1,000 home loan agreements by year 2000 in fresh efforts to help Northern Marianas residents own descent housing units, its chairman said. According to CDA chairman John S. Tenorio, the agency's subsidiary, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, is currently processing 300 more applications for its home loan program. Over the last two years, Tenorio said, the housing authority has approved between 600 and 700 loan applications, and is about to close about 150 more loan deals. NMHC receives between an average of 20 to 40 loan applications every month.

CPA not jumping on marina contract

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will review the proposal of Marine Revitalization Corp. to take over operations of the Outer Cove Marina, said Carlos H. Salas, executive director. With the financial crisis besetting the agency, Salas said the ports authority is not too keen on jumping at the offer immediately as it would have to look into the financial and legal implications of assuming the more than $4 million loan of MRC used to finance the construction of the marina. "We want to know first the kind of liabilities that we would have to assume although assuming the marina's management would enhance the areas where we can operate," he said.

Mar. 30, 2001

Child rights protection campaign launched

In continued effort to promote community awareness on the prevention of child abuse and neglect, the Division of Youth Services has mapped out month-long activities. Called "For the Children" campaign with this year's theme Protecting Children is Everyone's Mission, a proclamation signing is scheduled today at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Advocating agencies said Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, children and community leaders were invited to endorse April as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month. DYS officer Cheryl Cepeda said the public should be properly educated on the dangers of child abuse and to address abuse and neglect issues in the Commonwealth.

SGMA asks public to practice safe driving

A number of recent traffic accidents involving pedestrians prompted the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association to ask the public to drive safely on Saipan's busy and usually fast roadways. Two garment workers were struck by automobiles last week in Garapan, and two more were hit last weekend along Middle Road. One of the weekend victims is in a coma at the Commonwealth Health Center. "This is a serious and tragic situation," said SGMA acting chair Richard Pierce. "It's difficult, and very sad, to contact the parents of these injured people and tell them their son or daughter was in an accident...an accident that could have been prevented."

Mar. 30, 2003

Govt's support sought for ARFF facility

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is seeking the support of the local government for the fast-tracked completion of the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting facility, which is being eyed to be the center of firefighting training in Micronesia. CPA-ARFF officials presented to public and government agency representatives the scope of work to be done at the ARFF facility once all requirements are completed. In a public hearing held at the Dandan Elementary School Tuesday last week, CPA-ARFF officials briefed representatives on the additional facilities to be constructed at the site to make it conducive to trainings. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said that apart from the ARFF facility, classrooms will be added to the project to allow more students from Micronesia to come to Saipan for training and certification.

MPLA will survey Marpi for unexploded ordnance

The Marianas Public Lands Authority board of directors is soliciting bids for survey of unexploded ordnance and historical research services for a proposed homestead project in Marpi. "We want to find somebody to do this work for us. Right now, we don't have our data on this project site," said acting MPLA commissioner Frank M. Elliptico. Elliptico said the MPLA may be eligible for federal grant to clear areas with unexploded ordnances. This, as over 100 pieces of unexploded World War II ordnance have been reportedly excavated by the Emergency Management Office from a site in San Roque, which is near Marpi.

House counsels slams AG opinion on hiring restrictions

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JAPAN AID

The board of directors and general members of the Saipan Golfers Association Officers donate money to the people of Japan through the Japan Consulate on March 28, 2011, at the Japan Consulate Office in Marina Heights. From left: Edward Sablan, Tony Guerrero, Jess Castro, association president Mariano Fajardo, Japan Consul Tsutomu Higuchi, association secretary Frances Sablan, and Ed Manibusan. Not shown in photo making a separate donation is SGA Member Nick Sablan and his wife Lucy. The association's April Ace Tournament is scheduled on April 10, 2011, at Laolao West Golf Course. Tee time is 10:30am and show time is 9:30am.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House of Representatives legal counsels Joe Taijeron and John Cool said the Office of the Attorney General's legal opinion on the fiscal year 2012 budget law's provision on hiring restrictions is "unpersuasive" and "legally not binding" upon the Legislature.

Taijeron and Cool issued Monday a 12-page memo addressed to House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), which is the result of their review of Attorney General Edward Buckingham's legal opinion on Section 602 of Public Law 17-21.

They said the AG opinion "is not properly or thoroughly researched."

"It is inconsistent with its own actions of requesting legislative approval for its own FTEs," they said.

Buckingham said PL 17-21's section 602 is unconstitutional, citing the separation of powers doctrine.

The budget law requires the Legislature's approval when filling critical positions for full-time employees in government agencies, even those under the Executive Branch and the Judiciary.

Taijeron and Cool said the AG opinion takes a position that is counter to that which the Supreme Court of the CNMI took when the court itself expressly requested for legislative approval pursuant to Section 602 of PL 17-21.

"Only a court of competent jurisdiction can settle the issue and dispose of the matter at hand. Unless and until this matter is properly adjudicated, the law is the law. It should be respected, honored, and enforced," Taijeron and Cool said in their conclusion.

They said the AG opinion, as a matter of law, does not rise to the level of "controlling Commonwealth decisional authority."

"In other words, AG Opinion 2011-01 neither binds the Legislative Branch nor can it effectively operate to repeal CNMI law," they said.

They also said that the AG opinion fails to demonstrate a "host" of Commonwealth statutes in conflict.

They added that the AG opinion ignores the definition of full-time equivalent or FTE in PL 17-21, incorrectly relies upon obsolete law, and clearly ignores the relevant legislative intent and history associated with the use of the term FTEs.

DPW mulls improving Airport Road

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Works is looking at improving Airport Road from the airport signage all the way to the stoplight by the Shell service station in As Lito.

"We have plans to improve and expand the Airport Road. Hopefully, it will commence this year," DPW Secretary Martin Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Sablan, the project will involve the expansion of the two-lane road.

"It will still have two lanes but the lanes will be wider," he explained.

Sablan noted that improving Airport Road is essential for the local tourism industry.

"Tourists pass by this road when they arrive and when they leave that's why it's an important project," he said.

Sablan disclosed that the study report for the road improvement project is already ongoing.

He said the study will determine the right design for the project, taking into consideration the type and volume of traffic along the Airport Road.

"That's where the design comes in. We have to design the road in such a way that we will allow for the type of vehicles that pass by Airport Road like the tour buses," he explained.

Sablan said they have already considered improving the Airport Road since they worked on the Federal-Aid Highway Program, Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan for the CNMI.

According to Sablan, the project will include enhancing the existing drainage system along Airport Road.

Funding for the project had already been identified "but it looks like we're going to need more."

"Once we get the results of the study, we will have to find additional funding for the project," he added.

Tinian wants an affordable, easily maintained landfill

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Based on a recent stakeholders meeting, residents of Tinian want a landfill that they could afford and maintain.

"It was indicated in the public hearing that we don't want a landfill that we cannot afford to run," Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said in a phone interview.

About 15 stakeholders, including Dela Cruz, Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan, and a representative from the military who flew in from Guam, attended the public stakeholders meeting for the architectural and engineering design for the Tinian sanitary landfill.

The meeting was held on March 23 at the Tinian Elementary School cafeteria.

According to Dela Cruz, Tinian residents support the landfill. "It's long overdue. It's going to address the violations of the existing open dump," he added.

Dela Cruz, however, said that the stakeholders do not want to overbuild the Tinian landfill.

"We want to build a small one capable of taking care of our needs and, at the same time, affordable," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Tinian mayor also noted the need to take into account the impending military buildup in coming up with the design for the landfill.

"We wanted to make sure that our estimated size of the population, especially with the military buildup, will be taken into consideration. At the same time, we don't want a landfill to be constructed that is too big as we cannot afford it," he emphasized.

According to Dela Cruz, they will also consider having a landfill that can contain biowaste coming from the Tinian Health Center.

Dela Cruz also wants to integrate a recycling center in the design and construction of the Tinian sanitary landfill to promote recycling on the island.

Tinian currently has an existing open dump located southwest of Tinian near the airport.

Last year, the Tinian Municipality, along with the Department of Public Works and the Rota Municipality, was cited by the Division of Environmental Quality for violating numerous environmental regulations in operating their open dumps.

Some $5.4 million in capital improvement project and local funding are available for the planning and construction of Tinian sanitary landfill and a corresponding transfer station.

In February, the Coastal Resources Management and local agencies unanimously approved the permit for the Tinian sanitary landfill that will be situated in the Atgidon area.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SPRINGLEAF	018E	3/19 Sat	3/17 Thu	3/17 Thu	3/15 Tue	3/12 Sat	3/25 Fri	3/21 Mon	3/20 Sun	3/13 Sun	3/13 Sun	3/21 Mon	3/25 Fri	3/27 Sun	3/29 Tue
MELL SEMAKAU	014E	3/26 Sat	3/24 Thu	3/24 Thu	3/22 Tue	3/19 Sat	4/1 Fri	3/28 Mon	3/27 Sun	3/20 Sun	3/20 Sun	3/28 Mon	4/1 Fri	4/3 Sun	4/5 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	053E	4/2 Sat	3/31 Thu	3/31 Thu	3/29 Tue	3/26 Sat	4/8 Fri	4/4 Mon	4/3 Sun	3/27 Sun	3/27 Sun	4/4 Mon	4/8 Fri	4/10 Sun	4/12 Tue
MELL SARACA	044E	4/9 Sat	4/7 Thu	4/7 Thu	4/5 Tue	4/2 Sat	4/15 Fri	4/11 Mon	4/10 Sun	4/3 Sun	4/3 Sun	4/11 Mon	4/15 Fri	4/17 Sun	4/19 Tue
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Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SPRINGLEAF	018E	4/2 Sat	4/3 Sun	4/3 Sun	SKIP	4/6 Wed	4/8 Fri	4/10 Sun	SKIP	4/15 Fri	4/16 Sat	4/21 Thu	5/10 Tue	4/24 Sun	4/20 Wed
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MELL SARACA	044E	4/23 Sat	4/24 Sun	4/24 Sun	4/26 Tue	4/27 Wed	4/29 Fri	5/1 Sun	SKIP	5/6 Fri	5/7 Sat	5/12 Thu	5/31 Tue	5/15 Sun	5/11 Wed
MELL SEMAKAU	015E	4/30 Sat	5/1 Sun	5/1 Sun	SKIP	5/4 Wed	5/6 Fri	5/8 Sun	SKIP	5/13 Fri	5/14 Sat	5/19 Thu	6/7 Tue	5/22 Sun	5/18 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	054E	5/7 Sat	5/8 Sun	5/8 Sun	5/10 Tue	5/11 Wed	5/13 Fri	5/15 Sun	SKIP	5/20 Fri	5/21 Sat	5/26 Thu	6/14 Tue	5/29 Sun	5/25 Wed

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Don't expect a quick ending for Gadhafi

By TOM RAUM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Don't expect a quick ending in Libya.

There's a real possibility that Moammar Gadhafi could stave off the U.S. and its international partners, clinging to power in a drawn-out and increasingly dangerous standoff.

Confusion among allies over their goals and who's leading the mission is complicating the matter.

President Barack Obama conceded the possibility that Gadhafi could stubbornly hang on, telling reporters in El Salvador, "Unless he is willing to step down ... there is still going to be potential threats toward the Libyan people."

He added: "And we would continue to support the efforts to protect the Libyan people. But we will not be in the lead."

Gadhafi has a long history of digging in and enduring, after all. He's held power in the north African country for 42 years and survived U.S. air strikes in 1986 against his compound in Tripoli.

This time, narrowly limited objectives for the allied mission, including assertions by Obama that Gadhafi himself isn't being targeted militarily, may encourage him to hunker down in the capital city, surrounded by his followers and militiamen, and try to outwait and outmaneuver the West.

"We are preparing for a long and glorious war," Gadhafi declared in a radio address on Sunday.

In the first war that he didn't inherit from predecessor George W. Bush, Obama has made a strong point of insisting that regime change is not his military goal—and that the U.S. is just one of many international partners.

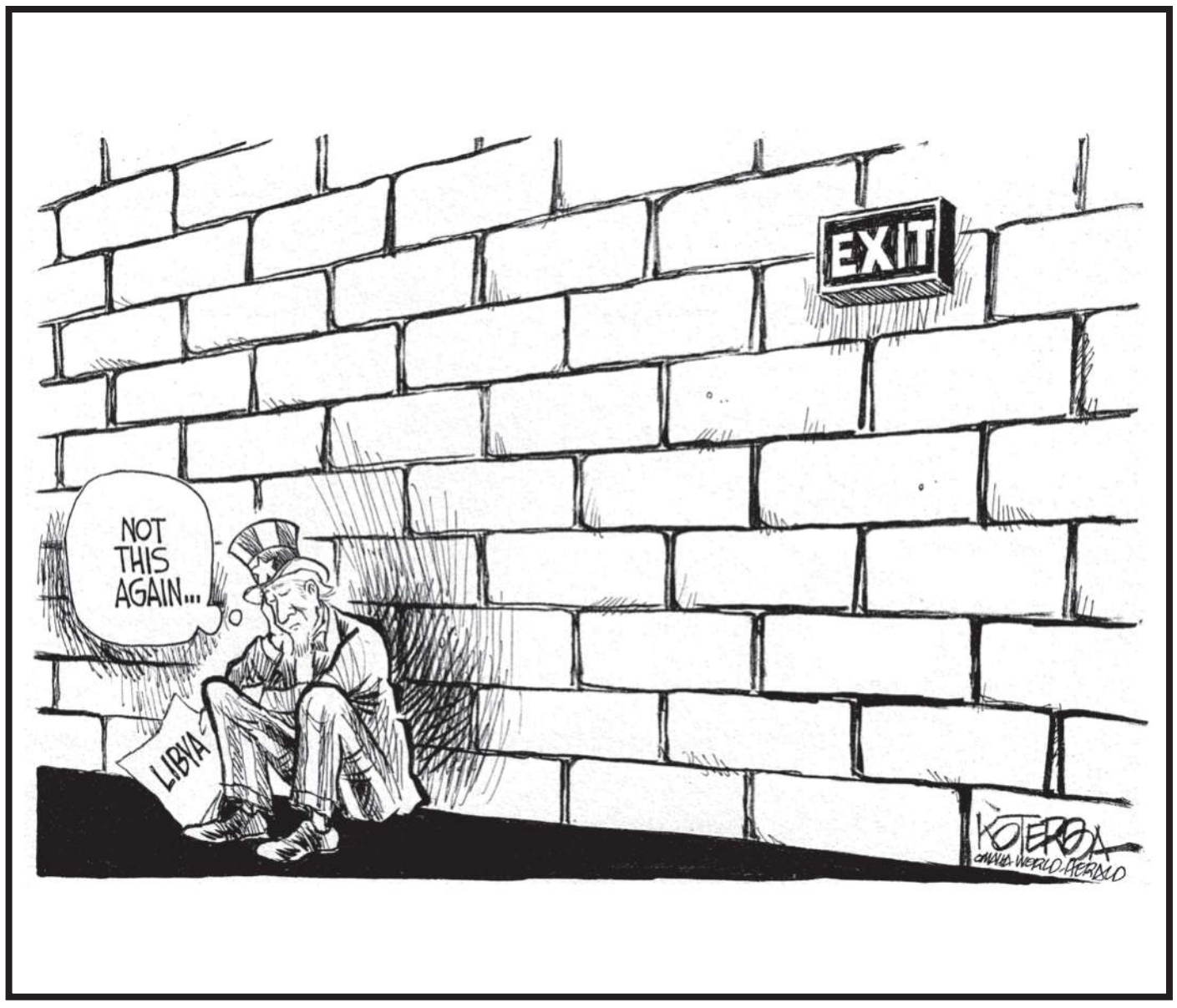
Obama still reiterates that Gadhafi must go, but he stops short of saying just how that might happen, talking in broad terms of tools besides military action that the international community has to achieve the goal, including sanctions and the freezing of overseas assets.

The dangers of the military effort were driven home on Tuesday with the crash of an American fighter jet, although it was due to mechanical failure and was in territory held by friendly rebels. Both crew members were rescued.

Also on Tuesday, the on-scene commander of the international coalition said civilians were under attack by Gadhafi's forces in Misrata, Libya's third-largest city and one Obama has insisted Gadhafi must vacate. U.S. Navy Adm. Samuel J. Locklear told Pentagon reporters the coalition was "considering all options" in light of the attacks, but he didn't elaborate.

The air strikes and other military actions have cut off Gadhafi from the oil-rich eastern parts of his country that have been under rebel control. But Gadhafi, controlling much of the western part of the country including its capital of Tripoli, clearly isn't about to throw in the towel.

See DON'T on Next Page



We each should prepare for eventual disaster

By JACK HAYES and CRAIG FUGATE
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE INFORMATION SERVICES

Out of the shock and disbelief brought by the earthquake and tsunami disaster in Japan, many people are rightly asking can a tsunami strike the United States? The answer is: yes and it already has.

Tsunamis are typically generated by earthquakes of magnitude 7.0 or greater when they occur at a shallow enough depth under the ocean. The 9.0 earthquake that struck Japan was 100 times stronger than a 7.0—and the United States is not immune from a quake of that intensity.

On March 28, 1964, the Great Alaska earthquake—measuring 9.2, the second strongest earthquake recorded—resulted in a tsunami that claimed 124 lives and caused $84 million in damage from Alaska to California. Since 1964, populations along these coastlines have increased—posing a greater risk for loss of life and economic impact. And as recently as September 2009, 34 people were killed in American Samoa, when the island was struck by the dual disaster of an earthquake measuring 8.1 and the tsunami that followed.

The tsunami that devastated Indonesia in December 2004 was a wakeup call for the United States.

At the time, the United States had a mere six tsunami-detecting buoys in the eastern Pacific Ocean. Now, a network of 39 buoys encircles the Pacific and strategically monitors the western Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean. Specialized forecasters armed with advanced modeling are staffing centers around-the-clock and are issuing tsunami alerts within minutes of an earthquake and providing coastal residents with as much advance notice as possible.

Our increasingly sophisticated means of observing and warning for tsunamis is vital but warrants ongoing investment. And this warning process is not complete or effective without an educated public that knows how to take appropriate action. As with all hazards, whether natural or man-made, it is critical that we all take steps to know and understand our risks, and the simple actions we can take in the event they occur.

WARNING SIGNS OF A TSUNAMI

- A strong earthquake, or one that persists for 20 seconds or longer
- The ocean withdraws or rises rapidly
- A loud, roaring sound (like an airplane or a train) coming from the ocean
- Tsunami warnings broadcast over television and radio, by beach lifeguards, community sirens, text message alerts, National Weather Service tsunami warning center websites and on NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU SEE THESE SIGNS

- Keep calm
- Immediately move to your local tsunami shelter using defined tsunami evacuation routes
- If there are no evacuation routes defined, move to higher ground that is at least 100 feet in elevation, a mile inland, or to the highest floor of a sturdy building and STAY there.
- If you are already in a safe location, STAY there
- Move on foot when possible—do not drive – keep roads clear for emergency vehicles
- Stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio or news broadcasts for changes in tsunami

While anyone living along a coastline should be prepared for a tsunami, the risks posed by earthquakes aren't exclusive to these areas—earthquake activity has been felt in all 50 states. In fact, two hundred years ago the New Madrid earthquakes, a series of intense earthquakes, struck states in the central United States, but were felt as far away as the District of Columbia, Boston and Maine. And according to USGS, history could soon repeat itself—they predict another major earthquake could strike this same region in the next 50 years.

The bottom line—all of us, no matter where we live, should take steps now to be prepared for earthquakes, tsunamis and other hazards. It starts with a plan: Know where to go in the event of an earthquake and tsunami and how you would communicate with your family, friends or co-workers if a disaster struck. Put together an emergency supply kit for your home, office or car with essential items you would need in an emergency, from first-aid items to important personal documents.

And be informed about what to do to protect yourself in the immediate moments after a tsunami, earthquake or another disaster strikes. Visit www.ready.gov to learn more.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with the people of Japan as they continue to recover from this horrific tragedy. What they are going through is an urgent reminder to all of us that disasters can strike anytime, anywhere. We cannot stop the next great earthquake or the tsunami that may come with it, but families and individuals must be prepared to recognize the danger and take the steps now to prepare—before the next disaster strikes.

Jack Hayes is the director of NOAA's National Weather Service. Craig Fugate is the administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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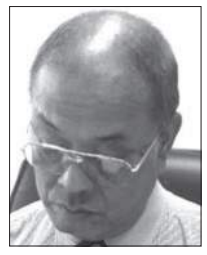
Nice try…try harder!



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

There are folks here who are suffering from a dizzying tsunami of misperception about our relationship with the federal government. They are convinced the dysfunctional relationship is heavily the fault of Uncle Sam when the contrary has greater truth.

I've gone over the agreement, i.e., mutual consent provisions, self-government, and foreign affairs. I fail to see where improvements can be made. Internal improvements? Definitely!

You can't blame Uncle Sam for inadequacies that have their genesis right here at home. He never sent a de facto governor to rule over these isles. It has been and continues to be an elected indigenous governor and Legislature. So what went wrong?

This reminds me of a Russian who insisted to seeing the late Premier Kruschev. He came in and pounded the premier's desk, kicked the chair across the room, cussed at the lowly life of his people then declared: "These are all the faults of John F. Kennedy!" Nice try!

Sorry, but this agenda depicts the fugacious nature of a culture that refuses to embrace new and lasting paradigms. We simply refuse to put our best foot forward where it matters the most. No wonder we keep searching for the keys when it's been lodged in the ignition all along, *di ba*?

Furthermore, we've been sleepwalking, convinced Uncle Sam would also tuck us into bed when we turn in at night, punched out of our wits from one too many picnics, barbecues, and marijuana. This adolescence was further cemented by the cultural reluctance to do what's right. It paralyzes appropriate changes for the better. Perhaps the local mafia is so inebriated with the taste of power it wants more of it over scaffolding a "government of laws."

Elected and appointed officials ought to retreat, if only to critically trump its cards where exactly did it drop the ball. Do we have a socio-economic plan in place? What's the goal of the NMI? What are we trying to achieve? Isn't it true that in a life you have to have some goals? After all, how do we determine if we've succeeded or failed? Without goals, what's our future? Hello? Anybody home?

In discussing our relationship with the feds among ourselves, it's important to keep political and intellectual integrity in linguistic use intact. These are two components of self-governance that are lacking today. In other words, don't blur issues with empty political rhetoric to keep governance at bay. You are the only beneficiary while governance loses out completely.

Finally, you can't blame others for the filthy swamp NMI's leadership has created in its backyard. But we can begin clearing the filth by first owning up to our fiduciary and citizenship responsibilities. Ridding ourselves of the culture of reluctance or *mañana* is a good start. It's sickening regurgitating rabble-rousing agenda that only feeds the ego of the corrupt "we few." A'Saina!

■ ■ ■

Issues we've ignored or neglected

The State of Hawaii has a very successful fisheries program. The combined efforts of the University of Hawaii and private industries have worked synergistically to ensure this sector succeeds with flying colors. Mind you, the Aloha State is under the same situation as the NMI on migratory and seabed resources strictly under the control of the federal government.

Its agricultural industry has moved into providing fresh produce daily, the balance of which is turned over to canning of excess goods. Again, the University of Hawaii has been a key player working synergistically with private industries. Not only can we explore with UH how it could help farmers here, we could also seek the assistance of the University of the Philippines in both sectors, including its very successful tourism programs.

That the NMI is situated in the typhoon belt makes it imperative that we assist farmers explore the potential of what's known as vertical farming. It's farming in super large warehouse-like buildings. It eliminates inclement weather, including use of commercial insecticides and permits for raising farm animals in the same building.

This and aquaculture could work well had we focus on the latest innovations beyond conventional wisdom. It takes real organization and rock solid commitment by key players to make it work. And it begins with personal initiative!

Tourism requires a serious plan that includes morphing from the prevailing mindset of accommodation to ownership. The culture of the islands is more than sufficient to showcase our visitors the essence of our people in this tropical paradise. It is imperative that we have a plan that includes critical review of marketing.

For instance, we must be wary of the graying of Japan. The visitors that once flocked to these isles in the '60s and '70s have grown old. They much prefer staying closer to home. It means the NMI must aggressively plan for other markets such as South Korea, China, Taiwan, and other tiger and lion countries nearby. We must not rest on our laurels lest we would be repeating the dismal nature of an industry on the brink of subsiding completely.

A key component in all that we plan is the role of education (PSS and NMC) here. All key players must buckle down and define the future of the NMI in concert with our educational institutions. It is especially vital that PSS ensures that its academic programs are strengthened and followed so NMC doesn't have to waste time putting up remedial courses throughout the year to make up for the inadequacies at PSS. Indeed, this issue needs more discussion and collaboration. It can be done and we need not show attitude but buckle down to doing what's right.

Our educational system ought to ably teach our children the first principles, the role and responsibilities of citizens, the essence of our collective and voluntary moral obligation to strengthening our democratic institutions and greater commitment to improving life in what's supposedly the paradise of our people. In short, let it not become the hellish hole of our children.

Then there's the need to critically review and repeal protectionist policies that have hindered rather than enhance the livelihood of our people. These are just some issues we've overlooked, issues that are substantive by their very nature. It's time to get to work. Let's employ that grand sense of cooperation and camaraderie we've seen in our people in both good and bad times. Again, it begins with the self, not a scheme to revisit a document that remains relevant today as it was 33 years ago.

Letter to the Editor

Another meaning for 'temporary'

The March 29 issue of the paper quoted the administration as saying that the power poles being put up in the Marpi area are only "temporary" and could be replaced "when needed, including when alternative power sources become available for the new Marpi public cemetery and the veterans' cemetery."

The problem is that in the CNMI, the word "temporary" doesn't have the same meaning that it has elsewhere. Elsewhere, it means for the short term, for the time being. But here it means "until it wears out." Just think of the quonset huts left behind after World War II. Or the FEMA temporary housing left after typhoons. In both cases, the temporary structures were used until they fell apart.

So when the administration labels the power poles "temporary" you know that the poles will stay there until they wear out, that there's no intention to replace them.

The administration goes on, according to the report in the paper, to make the silly statement that the poles could be replaced when "alternative power sources become available." But alternative sources are already available—like small diesel generators, as well as solar panels and wind generators. The first is available in the major hardware stores, the other two—now in the process of being installed in a number of schools on island, at the American Memorial Park—from contractors on island. There is no shortage of available alternate sources of power.

One must ask again: What are the power needs of the new cemetery? For restrooms, a small diesel generator is all that is needed. Solar panels, or wind generators, or the generator would provide whatever lighting is needed. To power a water sprinkler? Is that even really necessary?

At issue is a major tourist attraction that will be forever ruined if the power poles are installed. The road to the Banzai Cliff monuments is now open, green, uncluttered. Once those power poles go up, and the power lines are strung, they will be an unattractive eyesore, leaving the site spoiled and compromised.

It boggles the mind that with all the moaning and groaning about budget shortages, the administration sees nothing wrong in deliberately ruining a valuable tourism asset, when it would be so easy to protect and preserve it.

Ruth Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

DON'T

From Page 10

Obama's policy—put into effect after Defense Secretary Robert Gates publicly cautioned that bombing to establish a no-fly zone was basically an act of war—is generating growing worries and criticism on Capitol Hill from members of both parties.

Even some Democrats and Republican moderates who generally support Obama on military issues are raising concerns that Libya—whose terrain resembles that of Iraq but which is four times as large—could become a military quagmire.

Sen. Richard Lugar, the senior Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, warned of becoming ensnarled "in a situation in which war lingers on, in country after country" across the region.

Democratic Sen. James Webb, a former Navy secretary, said Obama and his administration have "a very clear obligation now to come forward to the American people and to the Congress and state clearly what they believe the end point of this should be."

The beginning phase is murky enough, as allies argue among themselves over who should lead the mission and what the ultimate goals are.

The Arab League, whose support was pivotal in winning U.N. Security Council support for the protective no-fly zone, has expressed some misgivings over the force of the initial U.S. air strikes.

And while Obama, traveling in South America, said Monday that Arab nations would "absolutely" be part of the coalition, only tiny Qatar has offered its planes to enforce the no-fly zone. And they won't be in place until this weekend at the earliest.

The United Arab Emirates has offered humanitarian assistance.

"We continue to talk to our partners" in terms of who will contribute what, State Department spokesman Mark Toner said Tuesday.

Talk, yes; agreement, not yet.

Italy has suggested NATO take the lead. But Turkey was adamantly against that.

In turn, Italy suggested that it might stop allowing the use of its airfields if NATO was not given the leadership.

France, which seems the most eager among European allies to attack Libyan targets, on Tuesday proposed that a new political steering committee outside NATO be responsible for overseeing military operations over Libya.

Germany and Russia, too, have criticized the way the mission is being carried out.

"The fact is, day by day, we're going to confront the reality that a no-fly zone is probably a misnomer," said Anthony Cordesman, a national security analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "If this structure can't stop Gadhafi's ground forces, then it fails."

"If we want to basically get rid of the regime, then we have to go much further and attack Gadhafi's centers of power and land targets," Cordesman said.

The narrowly defined military mission in Libya is to carry out Security Council Resolution 1973, which demands that Gadhafi's forces withdraw from rebel-held towns, establishes a no-fly zone to protect Libyan citizens, and insists on more access by civilians to water, food and other humanitarian supplies.

Obama said it would be "days, not weeks" until the U.S. turns over effective military leadership of the coalition. But Army Gen. Carter Ham, the lead U.S. commander, has said he "would not put a date certain on this."

Furthermore, Ham says he could envision a situation in which Gadhafi retains power. "I don't think anyone would say that is ideal," he said.

Even so, at his news conference in El Salvador, Obama stuck by his assertion earlier this week that U.S. will turn over command of the military operations within "days, not weeks," saying nothing had happened for him to change his assessment. "I have absolutely no doubt that we will be able to transfer control of this operation to an international coalition" sooner rather than later, he said.

Obama on Tuesday called French President Nicolas Sarkozy and British Prime Minister David Cameron from Air Force One. All agreed that "NATO should play a key role in command structure," Obama's deputy national security adviser, Ben Rhodes, told reporters.

Rhodes stressed that there was still no deal. While the U.S. offers "unique capabilities," especially in air power, once a command structure is set up, "we expect our allies and partners to be in the lead," Rhodes said.

Still, Benjamin Friedman, a research fellow with the libertarian CATO Institute, suggested that "rhetoric about ousting Gadhafi notwithstanding, our policy serves to stalemate the civil war, effectively severing Libya. That seems a recipe for a long stay."

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

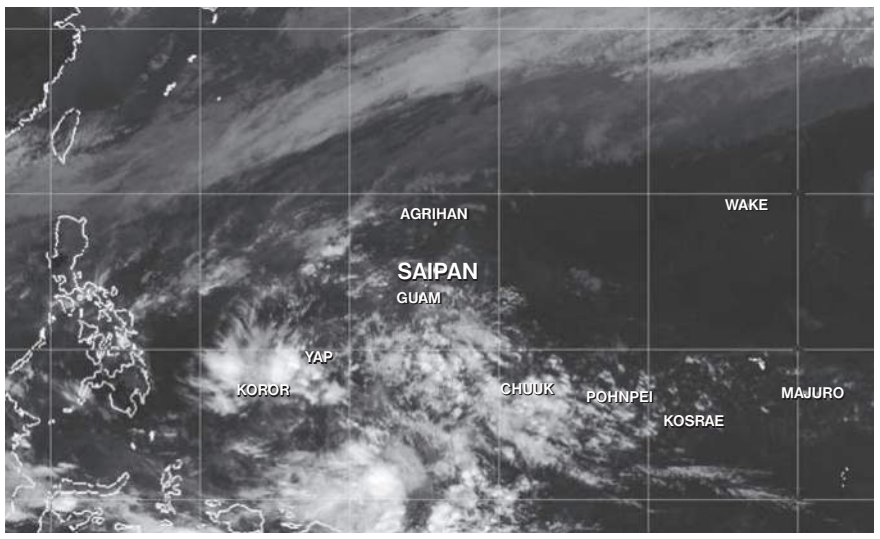
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Palau	Rain	▲85	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲84	▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼59
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼43
Hong Kong	Showers	▲64	▼60
Honolulu	Sunny	▲83	▼72
London	Showers	▲53	▼48
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼53
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼55
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86	▼71
New York	Sunny	▲45	▼32
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼44
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼47
Pusan	Sunny	▲61	▼46
Rome	Sunny	▲65	▼47
Salem	Showers	▲51	▼48
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼55
Seoul	Sunny	▲58	▼37
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼45
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲53	▼38

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from 25N171E across the far Northern Marianas near Agrihan at 19N146E to beyond 130E at 14N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and northwest of this boundary to beyond 25N. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from south of Mindanao through 2N130E to a broad circulation centered near 4N140E then continues to 1N149E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring across Palau in the area bounded by 7N130E to 11N135E to 7N140E back to 7N130E. Widespread cloudiness, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are also found across the large area bounded by EQ134E to 5N141E to 9N142E to 14B147E to 7N155E to EQ151E back to EQ134E. This includes Chuuk but is east of Yap and just southeast of Guam. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers from east of Chuuk eastward across Kosrae and the Marshall Islands within 125 miles either side of a line from 7N155E to 8N166E to 7N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:50 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:43 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
4:56 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:44 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:15 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:12 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:12 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:11 AM	3:05 PM
Thursday	3:48 AM	3:52 PM
Friday	4:24 AM	4:39 PM
Saturday	4:59 AM	5:25 PM
Sunday	5:35 AM	6:11 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, ,4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, ,4 ,5, 7
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

So far, most of tax cut is going down the gas tank

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans are earning and spending more, but a lot of the extra money is going down their gas tanks. Gas prices have drained more than half the extra cash Americans are getting this year from a cut in Social Security taxes.

Unlike some other kinds of spending, paying more for gas doesn't help the economy much. Most of the money goes overseas, and higher prices leave people with less money to buy appliances, computers, plane tickets and other things that can be postponed.

"When food and gasoline prices are rising, it causes people to hunker down," said Chris G. Christopher Jr., senior economist at IHS Global Insight.

Consumer spending jumped 0.7 percent last month, and personal incomes rose 0.3 percent, the Commerce Department said Monday. Both gains reflected the cut of two percentage points in the Social Security tax, raising take-home pay.

They also illustrated how higher gas prices are stressing household budgets. After adjusting for inflation, spending rose just 0.3 percent. After-tax incomes actually fell 0.1 percent.

The Social Security tax cut will give most households an additional $1,000 to $2,000 this year. In December, when President Barack Obama signed it into law, economists predicted higher take-home pay would lead to more spending and stronger economic growth.

But gas prices have jumped more than 50 cents a gallon this year. In late December, they hit $3 a gallon for the first time in two years. Last week, they averaged $3.58 nationwide, according to AAA's daily fuel gauge survey.

AP

In this March 8, 2011 file photo, gasoline is delivered, in Oakland, Calif. Consumers spending rise in February at the fastest pace in four months, but a big part of the increase went to cover higher prices for gas.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, has reduced his forecast for 2011 economic growth from 3.9 percent to 3.5 percent, in part because of gas prices. That would still be better than last year's 2.9 percent growth and the biggest expansion since before the recession.

Still, much of the anticipated benefit from the tax cut will be lost. Christopher estimates half to two-thirds of the extra cash will ultimately go toward higher gas prices. Food prices have also risen in recent months, he noted.

Higher gas prices generally don't help the broader U.S. economy, even though they force people to spend more. The additional money seldom pays for higher salaries or new jobs. The United States does supply a portion of the oil consumed here. But the majority is produced overseas, so most of the money leaves the country.

Most people don't have the luxury of deciding to buy less fuel. They have to get to work. So they spend more on gas, and less on other goods and services—from household purchases to restaurant meals to vacations—that do more to drive U.S. economic growth.

Those purchasing decisions are critical for the economy because consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of growth.

There's also a psychological factor when gas prices, a consumer necessity, keep rising. Those higher prices tend to rattle consumer confidence. People feel poorer, and they're less likely to spend freely.

Ultimately, less spending can hurt job growth because businesses will feel less confident. Christopher said a rise of just 25 cents a gallon in gasoline prices, if it persisted for an entire year, could cost the economy 270,000 jobs.

It's probably too early for the impact of higher gas prices to show up in national employment figures. The economy added 192,000 jobs in February. The consensus estimate of analysts is that it added 185,000 in March.

People made big purchases in February. Spending on durable goods rose 1.7 percent, much of it from new cars. And though the housing market had its worst year in a decade last year, the National Association of Realtors says more people signed contracts to buy homes in February than in January.

Latest airfare increase fails over weekend

DALLAS (AP)—The airlines' latest effort to broadly raise U.S. fares by $10 per round trip has crumbled as discount carriers like Southwest decided not to raise their prices.

After several successful price increases from December through February, two efforts to raise fares this month have died, raising questions about how much consumers are willing to pay for travel.

United and Continental started the push for another fare increase last week and were joined by Delta, American and US Airways. But low-cost airlines never went along.

FareCompare.com CEO Rick Seaney said the price hike began to unravel when Delta and American rolled back the increase on some routes. He said United and Continental then gave up and canceled the increases on Saturday.

By Monday afternoon, US Airways joined other large airlines in dropping the fare hike, making the collapse complete.

It's unclear whether consumer demand is too weak to absorb more price increases, or whether the recent failed price hikes are merely a pause before fares rise again heading into the peak summer travel season.

Seaney said domestic price increases will be harder to push through unless they are supported by low-cost airlines—Southwest, JetBlue, AirTran and Frontier.

JPMorgan Chase analyst Jamie Baker said Southwest, which carries the most U.S. passengers and plays a key role in setting fares for the industry, might just be biding its time until Easter. He said Southwest often prefers to raise fares over 3-day weekends to limit press coverage.

Baker said he didn't view this weekend's events as a sign that consumers or corporate travelers won't pay more. He said the airlines are still 9-for-11 with recent fare hikes and have tightened advance-purchase requirements.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China lowering nuclear target

BEIJING (AP)—China's government has made changes in its policy on nuclear power that likely will result in a scaling back of ambitious plans for building new plants, an industry official said in comments reported Tuesday by state media. The announcement came as Japan struggles to control a nuclear plant that was crippled by an earthquake and tsunami earlier this month but there was no announcement that the change was prompted by that disaster. Beijing is promoting nuclear power to curb surging demand for oil and gas, but analysts say the industry's rapid growth is straining China's ability to supply equipment and technicians.

Asian shares down after Wall street slump

BANGKOK (AP)—Asian markets opened mostly lower Tuesday, dragged down by a late-day slump on Wall Street and haunted by more bad news from Japan as it raced to stop a radioactive leak from a quake-damaged nuclear plant. Japanese shares were hammered amid reports that highly toxic plutonium was leaking from the Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant, crippled by a huge earthquake and tsunami on March 11. Plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. said it was the first confirmed presence of the dangerously radioactive substance and that it was leaking onto the soil outside.

SC lawmakers take a dim view of new light bulbs

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—South Carolina lawmakers are taking a stand in favor of states' lights. With incandescent bulbs being phased out under federal law in favor of energy-efficient compact fluorescents, legislators want to exempt South Carolina from the measure, saying Washington has no business telling the state how to light its closets and countertops. The proposed state law, called the Incandescent Light Bulb Freedom Act, "allows South Carolina to say to the federal government we are going to exercise our rights," said Republican state Rep. Bill Sandifer, a co-sponsor.

Cost shift seen in raising Medicare age to 67

WASHINGTON (AP)—Employers and even some younger people would pay more for health insurance if lawmakers raise the eligibility age for Medicare, a study to be released Tuesday concludes.

The findings suggest that the emerging debate over Medicare's future matters not only to seniors and those nearing retirement, but to a broad cross-section of Americans.

The report from the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation shows that federal taxpayers would save billions if the Medicare eligibility age, currently 65, is increased by two years. But people ages 65 and 66, employers—along with states, Medicare recipients and even some younger families—would see ripple effects that add to their costs.

Those costs could total more than $2,000 a year for some individuals.

Medicare covers 47 million elderly and disabled people, and it's is widely seen as financially unsustainable over the long run. Raising the eligibility age is among the leading fixes under discussion.

Years ago, lawmakers decided to gradually increase the Social Security retirement age to 67 for people born in 1960 or later. But they left the Medicare eligibility age unchanged. Now some policymakers are saying the qualifying ages for the two programs should be yoked together—at 67 or even higher.

"There are so many moving parts in a program as big as Medicare that it's difficult to make changes without having ripple effects for others," said Tricia Neuman, Kaiser's leading Medicare expert. The foundation serves as a clearinghouse for information about the nation's health care system.

The study assumed that President Barack Obama's health care overhaul remains in place, and doesn't get overturned by the courts or repealed by Congress. Without Obama's health insurance expansion, raising the Medicare age could potentially leave several million more people uninsured. With the new health care law, the main consequence appears to be a big shift in costs from the federal government to others.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,197.90	1,310.19	2,730.68
-22.71	-3.61	-12.38
-0.19%	-0.27%	-0.45%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9769	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7982	Philippine Peso	43.4350
British Pound	0.6255	Indian Rupee	44.8375	Singapore Dollar	1.2630
Canadian Dollar	0.9782	Indonesian Rupiah	8,717.5	South Korean Won	1,114.40
Chinese Yuan	6.5650	Japanese Yen	87.7182	Swiss Franc	0.9164
Euro	0.7104	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0265	Taiwan Dollar	29.4880
		New Zealand Dollar	1.3327	Thailand Baht	30.2950

Nation

Obama on Libya: 'We have a responsibility to act'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Vigorously defending American attacks in Libya, President Barack Obama declared Monday night that the United States intervened to prevent a slaughter of civilians that would have stained the world's conscience and "been a betrayal of who we are" as Americans. Yet he ruled out targeting Moammar Gadhafi, warning that trying to oust him militarily would be a mistake as costly as the war in Iraq.

Obama announced that NATO would take command over the entire Libya operation on Wednesday, keeping his pledge to get the U.S. out of the lead fast—but offering no estimate on when the conflict might end and no details about its costs despite demands for those answers from lawmakers.

He declined to label the U.S.-led military campaign as a "war," but made an expansive case for why he believed it was in the national interest of the United States and allies to use force.

In blunt terms, Obama said the U.S.-led response had stopped Gadhafi's advances and halted a slaughter that could have shaken the stability of an entire region. Obama cast the intervention in Libya as imperative to keep Gadhafi from killing those rebelling against him and to prevent a refugee crisis that would drive Libyans into Egypt and Tunisia, two countries emerging from their own uprisings.

"To brush aside America's responsibility as a leader and—more profoundly—our responsibilities to our fellow human beings under such circumstances would have been a betrayal of who we are," Obama said. He spoke in a televised address to the nation, delivered in front of a respectful audience of military members and diplomats.

AP

President Barack Obama speaks about Libya at the National Defense University in Washington, Monday, March 28, 2011.

"Some nations may be able to turn a blind eye to atrocities in other countries. The United States of America is different," Obama said. "And as president, I refused to wait for the images of slaughter and mass graves before taking action."

Obama spoke as, in Libya, rebel forces bore down Monday on Gadhafi with the help of airstrikes by the U.S.-led forces. His speech was his most aggressive attempt to answer the questions mounting from Republican critics, his own party and war-weary Americans - chiefly, why the U.S. was immersed in war in another Muslim nation.

So far, the nation is split about Obama's leadership on Libya. Across multiple polls, about half of those surveyed approve of the way Obama is handling the situation. A Pew poll out Monday found that the public does not think the United States and its allies have a clear goal in Libya - 39 percent of those polled said they do; 50 percent said they do not.

Amid protests and crackdowns across the Middle East and North Africa, Obama stated his case that Libya stands alone. Obama said the United States had a unique ability to stop the violence, an international mandate and broad coalition, and the ability to stop Gadhafi's forces without sending in American ground troops. The message to his country and the world: Libya is not a precedent for intervention anywhere else.

In essence, Obama, the Nobel Prize winner for peace, made his case for war. He spoke of justifiable intervention in times when the United States, as the world's most powerful nation, must step in to help.

"In such cases," Obama said, "we should not be afraid to act."

Reaction to the speech in Congress tended to break along partisan lines, with Republicans faulting the president for what they said was his failure to define the mission clearly.

No threat from Japanese radiation spread across US

WASHINGTON (AP)—Traces of radioactive material from the endangered Japanese nuclear plant are being detected from coast to coast in the United States and in Iceland, but amounts continue to be far below levels that would cause health problems.

The development of supersensitive equipment to detect radiation is both a blessing and a curse, allowing scientists to monitor materials released in nuclear accidents, but also causing unnecessary worry, said Kathryn Higley, director of the nuclear engineering and radiation health physics at Oregon State University.

Traces of radioactive cesium and iodine are being reported from Nevada to Vermont, South Carolina to Massachusetts, thanks to equipment that Higley says can detect material "many orders of magnitude below what would be hazardous."

The traces of radiation outside of Japan are "absolutely of no concern," added Ahmed Hassanein, head of nuclear engineering at the Purdue School of Nuclear Engineering.

Curiously, one spot where extremely small amounts of the radioactive isotopes were detected was Las Vegas' Atomic Testing Museum, about 65 miles from the desert site where the United States tested atomic bombs in the 1950s.

Ted Hartwell, manager of environmental monitoring at the Desert Research Institute, said he's certain the isotopes came from Japan because they're not usually detected in Nevada. But he said the readings were far below levels that could pose any health risks.

Gerhard Wotawa of Austria's Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics, said the amounts of radiation detected so far were a fraction of what people are normally exposed to, adding that doctors, pilots and others are often confronted with much higher concentrations.

He also said that several types of material flung into the air at the Chernobyl plant 25 years ago are not turning up in the aftermath of the Fukushima accident because there has been no explosion to propel these heavier elements in the atmosphere.

Army: Photos of soldiers with corpses 'disturbing'

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP)—The U.S. Army on Monday apologized for any distress caused by recently published photos of American soldiers posing with dead Afghans, calling their content "disturbing" and "in striking contrast" to the Army's standards and values.

The Army issued a statement in response to graphic images that *Rolling Stone* magazine posted on its website on Monday—about a week after the German news magazine *Der Spiegel* published three of the photos.

Rolling Stone says the photos are linked to an ongoing war crimes probe involving members of the 5th Stryker Brigade, based south of Seattle. Five soldiers from the platoon have been charged with murder and conspiracy in the deaths of three unarmed Afghan men last year.

Rolling Stone obtained about 150 photos in all, said Eric Bates, the magazine's executive editor. It posted 17 of them on its website, along with two videos it says show U.S. attacks on Afghans.

AP

In this undated file photo released by the U.S. Army, Cpl. Jeremy Morlock is shown.

Bates would not say how the magazine obtained the pictures.

Two of the photos show soldiers charged in the case—Spc. Jeremy Morlock of Wasilla, Alaska, and Pvt. 1st Class Andrew Holmes, of Boise, Idaho—crouching alongside an Afghan youth and lifting the victim's head by its hair. Two other photos show the body of the same Afghan youth, identified by *Rolling Stone* as Gul Mudin, one of the victims in the case.

Morlock, the first of the five to be court-martialed, was sentenced last week to 24 years in prison after pleading guilty to three counts of murder, as well as conspiracy and other charges. He said the killings were part of a deliberate plan to murder Afghan civilians.

Morlock's attorney did not respond to requests for comment Monday from The Associated Press.

Daniel Conway, Holmes' attorney, said he doesn't think the latest publication will affect his client's upcoming court martial. He said Holmes was ordered by his superiors to pose with the body.

"That photo wasn't his idea," Conway said Monday. "He was a 19-year-old private, and they told him to come over, get in the picture and he got in the picture."

Rolling Stone says the photos are from a cache of images the Army has kept secret, even from defense attorneys in the case, because it fears another scandal like the one that erupted over photos showing prisoner abuse at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

Among the photos are pictures of the accused soldiers holding captured weapons as well as gruesome pictures of dismembered bodies that the magazine said are unrelated to the war crimes probe.

Photographs held by the military in the case are under a protective order that remained in place Monday, said Army spokeswoman Maj. Kathy Turner.

The Associated Press has written about the photos' existence and how soldiers passed them around in emails and thumb drives.

In its statement, the Army expressed its commitment to accountability.

"We must allow the judicial process to continue to unfold and be mindful that the government has distinct obligations to the victims and to the accused, which include compliance with the Court's protective order to ensure a fair trial," the statement said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police seek bomb-maker in Calif. driveway blast

VACAVILLE, Calif. (AP)—As residents of a quiet Vacaville street got ready for church or a day of relaxation, an explosion shook their homes Sunday morning. Seconds later, they saw the victim of the violence—a friendly elderly neighbor who shared tomatoes from his garden—spattered with blood and with one finger nearly severed by a bomb that went off when he retrieved a newspaper from the lawn near his driveway. "I thought something in the garage had exploded," said Gil Guerrero, a firefighter with emergency medical training who lives across the street from the victim and was at his side moments after the bomb went off.

Father, son die in San Diego sailboat expedition

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A father and son died when a sailboat carrying 10 people on an excursion organized by a group that helps disabled people capsized in calm water in San Diego Bay, authorities said Monday. Chao Chen, 73, and his son, Jun Chen, 48, of San Diego died Sunday night, San Diego Harbor police Chief John Bolduc said. Another person, who was not identified, was in "rather serious condition," he said. Among those thrown into the water were two young adults with undisclosed special needs, and a 10-year-old girl and an 11-year-old boy who were wearing life jackets, authorities said.

Toddler, teen are among 3 killed in NYC fire

NEW YORK (AP)—A suspicious fire swept through the top floors of a four-story Brooklyn building Monday, killing two girls and a man and injuring several others, fire officials said. The girls, 14 and 3, were found on the top floor, as was the 62-year-old man, according to a police spokesman, who did not provide any other information about the victims. Police said a 47-year-old man was hospitalized in critical condition. Three people were hospitalized with injuries that were serious but not life-threatening and two firefighters suffered minor injuries, a fire department spokesman said.

Asia

Toxic plutonium seeping from Japan's nuclear plant

TOKYO (AP)—Highly toxic plutonium is seeping from the damaged nuclear power plant in Japan's tsunami disaster zone into the soil outside, officials said Tuesday, further complicating the delicate operation to stabilize the overheated facility.

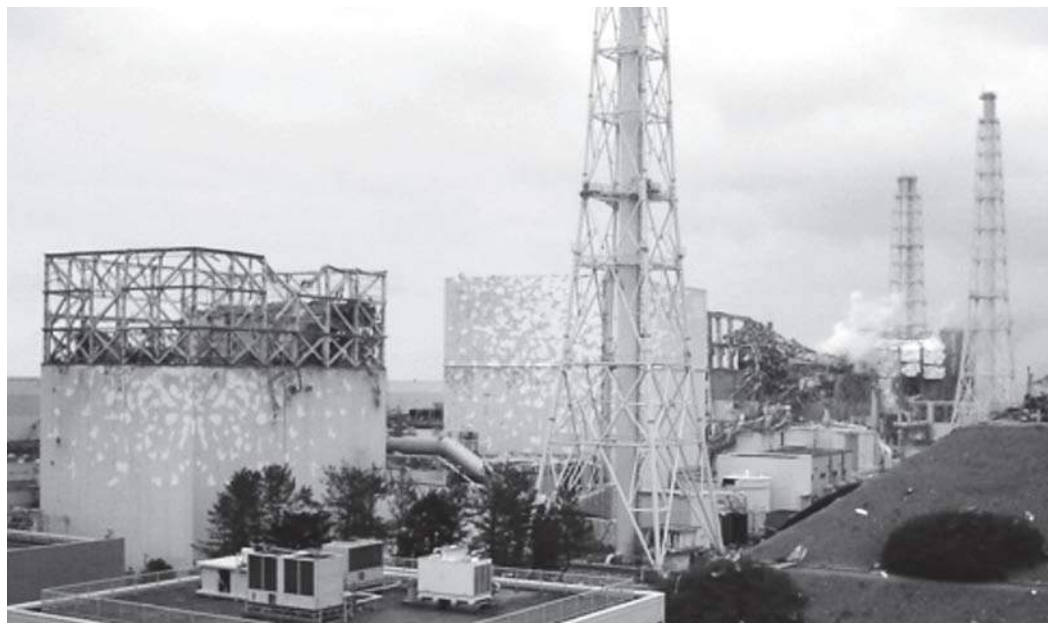
Plutonium has been detected in small amounts at several spots outside the Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant for the first time, plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. said.

Safety officials said the amounts were not a risk to humans but support suspicions that dangerously radioactive water is leaking from damaged nuclear fuel rods—a worrying development in the race to bring the power plant under control.

"The situation is very grave," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano told reporters Tuesday. "We are doing our utmost efforts to contain the damage."

A tsunami spawned by a magnitude-9.0 earthquake March 11 destroyed the power systems needed to cool the nuclear fuel rods in the complex, 140 miles (220 kilometers) northeast of Tokyo.

Since then, three of the complex's six reactors are believed to have partially melted down, and emergency crews have grappled with everything from malfunctioning pumps to dangerous spikes in radiation that have sent workers fleeing.



AP

In this image released by Tokyo Electric Power Co., smoke billows from the No. 3 unit among four housings cover four reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex in Okumamachi, Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan, on Tuesday, March 15, 2011.

Radiation seeping from the plant has made its way into produce, raw milk and even tap water as far away as Tokyo, prompting some nations to halt imports from the region. Residents within a 12-mile (20-kilometer) radius of the plant have been urged to leave or stay indoors.

The troubles have eclipsed Pennsylvania's 1979 crisis at Three Mile Island, when a partial meltdown raised fears of widespread radiation release. But it is still well short of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, which killed at least 31 people with radiation sickness, raised long-term cancer rates and spewed radiation across much of the northern hemisphere.

A series of missteps and accidents, meanwhile, have raised questions about the handling of the disaster, with the government revealing growing frustration with TEPCO.

The Yomiuri daily newspaper reported that the government was considering temporarily nationalizing the troubled nuclear plant operator, but Edano and TEPCO officials denied holding any such discussions.

The nuclear crisis has complicated the government's ability to address the humanitarian situation facing hundreds of thousands left homeless by the twin disasters. The official number of dead surpassed 11,000 on Tuesday, police said, and the final figure is expected to top 18,000.

The urgent mission to stabilize the Fukushima plant has been fraught with setbacks.

Workers succeeded last week in reconnecting some parts of the plant to the power grid. But as they pumped water into units to cool the reactors down, they discovered pools of contaminated water in numerous spots, including the basements of several buildings and in tunnels outside them.

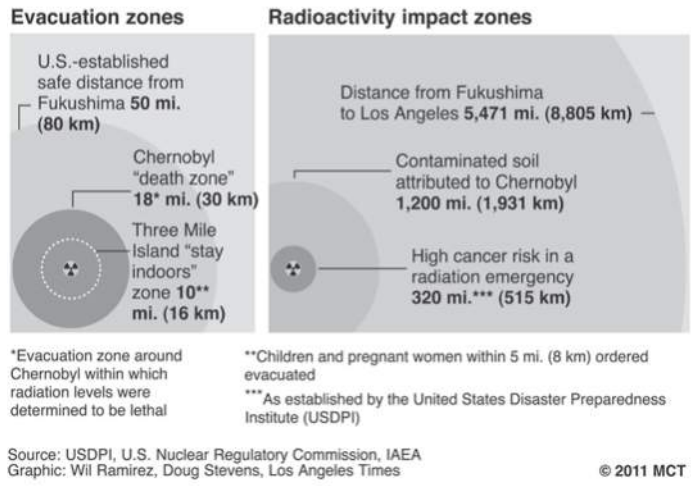
The contaminated water has been emitting radiation exposures more than four times the amount the government considers safe for workers and must be pumped out before electricity can be restored to the cooling system.

That has left officials struggling with two crucial but sometimes-contradictory efforts: pumping in water to keep the fuel rods cool and pumping out—and then safely storing—contaminated water.

Nuclear safety official Hidehiko Nishiyama called it "delicate work." He acknowledged that cooling the reactors took precedence over concerns about leakage.

Radiation risk

Even if the Fukushima nuclear plant were to suffer a catastrophic failure, the radiation risk to people outside the impact zones would remain extremely low, experts say.


Evacuation zones
U.S.-established safe distance from Fukushima 50 mi. (80 km)
Chernobyl "death zone" 18* mi. (30 km)
Three Mile Island "stay indoors" zone 10** mi. (16 km)
Radioactivity impact zones
Distance from Fukushima to Los Angeles 5,471 mi. (8,805 km)
Contaminated soil attributed to Chernobyl 1,200 mi. (1,931 km)
High cancer risk in a radiation emergency 320 mi.*** (515 km)
*Evacuation zone around Chernobyl within which radiation levels were determined to be lethal
**Children and pregnant women within 5 mi. (8 km) ordered evacuated
***As established by the United States Disaster Preparedness Institute (USDPI)
Source: USDPI, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, IAEA
Graphic: Wil Ramirez, Doug Stevens, Los Angeles Times
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PH to bolster watch in disputed Spratlys

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines plans to acquire patrol ships, aircraft and an air defense radar system so it is better able to guard its territory in and near the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, the country's military chief said Monday.

China, the Philippines and four other countries and territories claim all or parts of the Spratlys, which is believed to have vast oil and gas reserves, teem with rich fishing grounds and straddle one of the world's busiest sea lanes. They have long been regarded as a potential flash point for conflict in Asia.

Military chief Gen. Eduardo Oban said it remains uncertain when the massive funding for the acquisitions, initially estimated at about $181 million (8 billion pesos), could be made available, but the government has asked the military to submit a list of equipment needed to strengthen territorial defense in Palawan, the southwestern Philippine province nearest the Spratlys.

At least $700,000 (31 million pesos) could soon be disbursed for the repair of a worn-out airstrip on Pag-asa, the largest island occupied by Filipino troops in the contested Spratlys, Oban said.

"We're pushing for capability development to safeguard our interests," Oban told reporters.

Philippine defense and military officials reportedly called off a trip to Pag-asa using a C-130 cargo plane because of the dangerous condition of the runway.

The 120,000-strong military, one of Asia's weakest, has long faced funding shortfalls.

In recent years, it has focused on combating decades-long communist and Muslim insurgencies instead of external defense. "We have not given this enough attention," Oban said, adding President Benigno Aquino III's administration has seen the need to now bolster military presence in Palawan near the contested region.

Two Chinese patrol boats allegedly harassed a Philippine oil exploration ship into leaving a vast area called the Reed Bank on March 2, prompting a Filipino general to deploy two military aircraft, which arrived at the scene after the Chinese vessels had left, the military said.

The Philippines protested, saying the Reed Bank, which is near the Spratlys, lies within Philippine territorial waters. China responded by saying that the Spratlys and adjacent waters belong to it.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told an Association of Southeast Asian Nations regional security forum in Vietnam last year that the peaceful resolution of disputes over the Spratly and Paracel island groups was in the American national interest. Her remarks angered Beijing, which accused Washington of interfering in an Asian regional issue.

Washington worries the disputes could hamper access to one of the world's busiest commercial sea lanes.

Australian writer missing in China feared detained

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia has asked China for information on a Chinese-born Australian writer who disappeared in the country, the government said Tuesday. Reports say Yang Hengjun may have been detained in Beijing's ongoing crackdown on political expression.

Sydney-based spy novelist Yang phoned a a friend Sunday from Guangzhou airport in southeastern China to say three men were following him, The Sydney Morning Herald newspaper reported. He has not been heard from since.

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed Tuesday that it is investigating the disappearance.

"Consular officers in Guangzhou are seeking to confirm with Chinese authorities the whereabouts of an Australian novelist as a matter of priority and provide him with consular assistance if needed," the department said in a statement.

Yang, 46, was an official in the Chinese Foreign Ministry before moving to Australia. His novel, "Fatal Weakness," deals with espionage between China and the United States and has been published on the Internet in China.

Beijing has had no comment on the disappearance. China has recently detained dozens of activists to prevent any copying of the democracy uprisings across the Middle East.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH senator accused of murder faces public

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine senator who fled double murder charges more than a year ago faced the public Monday for the first time since his return, claiming that he went into hiding because the previous government had conspired to put him behind bars. Sen. Panfilo Lacson arrived in the Philippines on Saturday from Hong Kong after a court voided the arrest warrant against him. He told a news conference Monday that he had been "a fugitive from injustice." Lacson was charged with the killings of high-profile publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer, who represented a number of top political figures, and Dacer's driver in 2000. He said he became a fugitive after justice department contacts told him that the government of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo allowed prosecutors to set aside rules of evidence to jail him for a crime he did not commit.

China launches crackdown on tainted pig feed

BEIJING (AP)—China's government has launched a year-long crackdown on illegal additives in pig feed after some pigs owned by meat suppliers tested positive for a banned chemical that can be dangerous to humans. Tainted pork has become the latest food safety scandal to shock China after state broadcaster CCTV ran an expose earlier this month showing that a subsidiary of China's largest meat producer, based in central Henan province, used pork tainted with the fat-burning drug clenbuterol in its products. The Ministry of Agriculture said in a statement on its website late Monday that the crackdown would be a multi-agency effort.

China moves to extend jailing of outspoken blogger

BEIJING (AP)—Police filed subversion charges against a prolific blogger and writer, his wife said Monday, in a bellwether detention since anonymous online calls circulated for Chinese to imitate the pro-democracy protests of North Africa and the Middle East. Ran Yunfei, an uncompromising voice for free speech, was taken into custody five weeks ago just as those protest calls first came. His wife, Wang Wei, said she received a police notice Monday that was dated Friday and said Ran was charged with subversion of state power.

World

Libyan rebels bear down on Gadhafi's hometown

BIN JAWWAD, Libya (AP)—Rebel forces bore down Monday on Moammar Gadhafi's hometown of Sirte, a key government stronghold where a brigade headed by one of the Libyan leader's sons was digging in to defend the city and setting the stage for a bloody and possibly decisive battle.

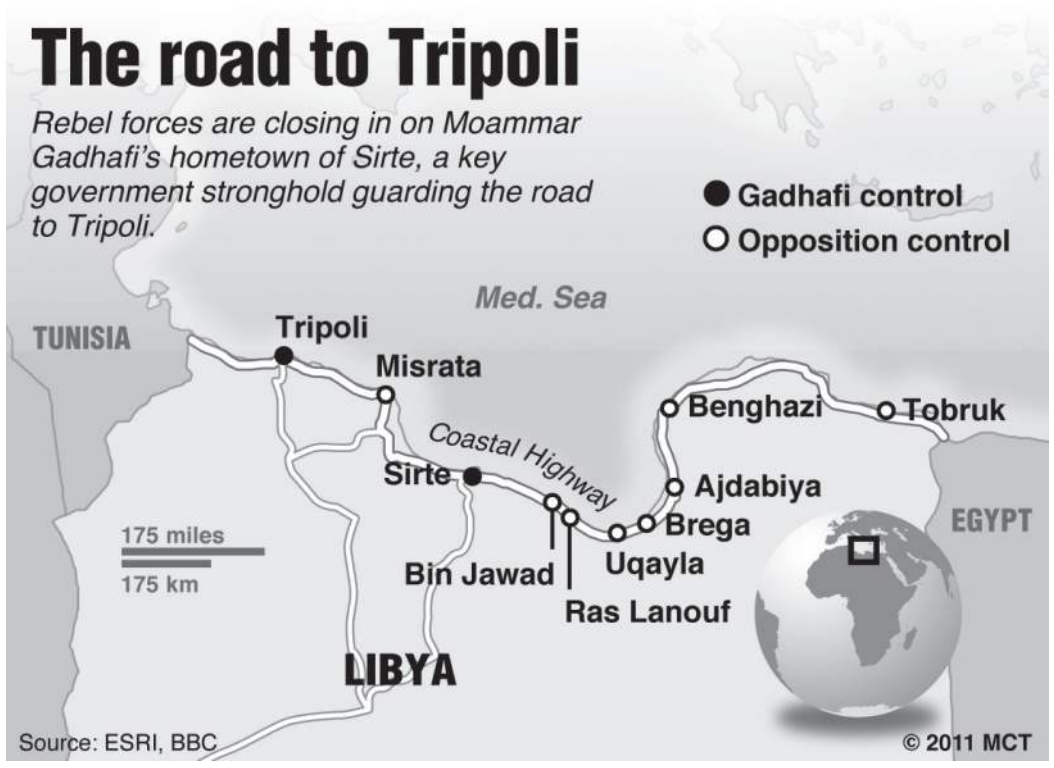
The opposition made new headway in its rapid advance westward through oil towns and along stretches of empty desert highway toward Sirte and beyond to the big prize—the capital, Tripoli.

But the rebels remain woefully outgunned by Gadhafi's forces, who swept the insurgents from positions in eastern Libya until the international intervention forced government troops to withdraw.

Rebels acknowledged they could not have held their ground without international air and cruise missile strikes. Libya state television reported new NATO airstrikes after nightfall, targeting "military and civilian targets" in the cities of Garyan and Mizda about 40 miles and 90 miles respectively from Tripoli.

Speaking in Washington, President Barack Obama declared that the goal of the mission was not to depose Gadhafi, calling that a mistake. He said he would work to replace Gadhafi by "non-military means." He did not elaborate.

Instead, he said, The U.S and its allies moved fast to protect Libya's civilians from imminent massacres by Gadhafi's forces, "and as president, I refused to wait for the images of slaughter and mass graves before taking action."



NATO insisted that it was seeking only to protect civilians and not to give air cover to an opposition march. But that line looked set to become even more blurred. The airstrikes now are clearly enabling rebels bent on overthrowing Gadhafi to push toward the final line of defense on the road to the capital.

Vice Adm. William Gortney, staff director for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the U.S. was hitting Libyan targets with Thunderbolts and AC-130 gunships, aircraft that can fly low enough to support ground operations.

There was growing criticism from Russia and other countries that the international air campaign is overstepping the bounds of the U.N. resolution that authorized it. The complaints came at a critical transition in the campaign from a U.S. to a NATO command. That threatens to hamper the operation, as some of the 28 NATO member nations plan to limit their participation to air patrols, rather than attacks on ground targets.

On Monday, rebel fighters moved about 70 miles (110 kilometers) west Monday from the coastal oil terminal and town of Ras Lanouf to just beyond the small town of Bin Jawwad, where their push was halted by government fire along the exposed desert highway and the heavily mined entrance to Sirte.

The rebels are currently just 60 miles (100 kilometers) from Sirte, the bastion of Gadhafi's power in the center of the country.

Take control of that, and there's only the largely rebel-held city of Misrata—and then empty desert—in the way of the capital. Sirte could therefore see some of the fiercest fighting of the rebellion, which began on Feb. 15.

"Gadhafi is not going to give up Sirte easily because straightaway after Sirte is Misrata, and after that it's straight to Gadhafi's house," said Gamal Mughrabi, a 46-year-old rebel fighter. "So Sirte is the last line of defense."

He said there are both anti- and pro-Gadhafi forces inside Sirte.

Some residents were fleeing Sirte, as soldiers from a brigade commanded by Gadhafi's son al-Saadi and allied militiamen streamed to positions on the city's outskirts to defend it, witnesses said. Sirte was hit by airstrikes Sunday night and Monday morning, witnesses said, but they did not know what was targeted.

The city is dominated by members of the Libyan leader's Gadhadhfa tribe. But many in another large Sirte tribe—the Firjan—are believed to resent his rule, and rebels are hoping to encourage them and other tribes there to help them.

"There's Gadhafi and then there's circles around him of supporters. Each circle is slowly peeling off and disappearing," said Gen. Hamdi Hassi, a rebel commander speaking at the small town of Bin Jawwad, just 18 miles (30 kilometers) from the front. "If they rise up, it would make our job easier."

Sirte, which houses a significant air and military base, is crucial both for its strategic position and its symbolic value. Over the years, Gadhafi has made it effectively Libya's second capital, building up what had been a quiet agricultural community into a city of 150,000 with lavish conference halls where Arab and African summits were held.

Fighting in such a densely populated area is likely to complicate the rebels' advance and add to the ambiguity of the NATO-led campaign, authorized by a Security Council resolution to take all necessary measures to protect civilians.

In Russia, which abstained from the U.N. vote, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said strikes on Gadhafi's forces would amount to taking sides in what he called Libya's civil war, and thus would breach the mandate that was initially envisaged as establishing a no-fly zone only to protect civilians.

But the inclusion of language allowing "all necessary means" opened the door to airstrikes and ship-fired cruise missile attacks on Gadhafi's forces to stop attacks on cities and cut supply lines.

And Pentagon officials are looking at plans to expand the firepower and airborne surveillance systems, including using the Air Force's AC-130 gunship armed with cannons that shoot from the side doors, as well as helicopters and drones. That weaponry might allow for more precision in urban fighting, while drawing forces closer to the combat.

Syrian president wavers on crackdown or compromise

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Syrian President Bashar Assad wavered between cracking down and compromising Monday in one of the Middle East's most authoritarian and anti-Western nations as thousands of protesters in a southern city defied security forces who fired tear gas to disperse them.

The unrest in Syria, a strategically important country of 23 million people, could have implications well beyond the country's borders given its role as Iran's top Arab ally and as a front line state against Israel.

"Nobody has an interest in Syria going aflame," said Hilal Khashan, a political science professor at the American University of Beirut. "Syrian instability has the potential of destabilizing the entire region."

The southern city of Daraa—parched by drought, rural and impoverished—has become the flashpoint for 10 days of anti-government protests in a country that has a history of brutally crushing dissent. At least 61 people have been killed since March 18, according to Human Rights Watch.

Touched off by the arrest of several teenagers who scrawled anti-government graffiti on a wall in Daraa, the protests exploded nationwide on Friday. Security forces launched a swift crackdown, opening fire in at least six locations around the country—including the capital, Damascus, and the country's main port of Latakia.

Assad, 45, is now facing down the most serious threat to his family's four decades of authoritarian rule in this predominantly Sunni country, which is ruled by minority Alawites.

The government has tried to calm the situation with concessions. Assad is expected to address the nation as early as Tuesday to announce he is lifting a nearly 50-year state of emergency and moving to annul other harsh restrictions on civil liberties and political freedoms.

But while Syrians await the rumored announcement, security forces are trying to crush the unrest. Troops fired tear gas on a crowd of some 4,000 people in Daraa who were calling for more political freedoms Monday, witnesses said. They also fired live ammunition in the air to disperse the crowd.

The witnesses spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Elsewhere in Syria, armed groups appeared to be facing off and threatening an escalation in violence in the country's main port city of Latakia. Residents were taking up weapons and manning their own checkpoints to guard against what they say are unknown gunmen roaming the streets carrying sticks and hunting rifles, witnesses said Monday.

It was not clear whether the gunmen were working for the government.

One resident said the vigilante groups were just as terrifying as the thugs.

"They are terrorizing people," he said, asking that his name not be published for fear of retribution. "They are regular people who are taking up the role of security forces, that's extremely dangerous."

A human rights group called Syrian Human Rights Information Link said it has documented the arrest of 280 people since the demonstrations began—a mix of protesters and rights activists.

The unrest in Syria is a dramatic turn for Assad, a British-trained eye doctor who inherited power from his father in 2000 after three decades of authoritarian rule. In January, he said his country is immune to such unrest because he is in tune with the country's needs.

Syria has for years taken popular legitimacy from its anti-Israel policies and tough stance toward the West. While supporting militant groups opposed to Israel, it has kept its shared border with Israel quiet and says it will recover the occupied Golan Heights only through negotiations.

Even though Israel and Syria are sworn enemies, many in Israel are fearful that a collapse of Assad's regime might imperil decades of quiet along the shared border.

"That has been the working assumption in Israel for years: Better the devil you know than the devil you don't," said Eyal Zisser, director of the Middle East Studies department at Tel Aviv University. "It was a regime that had really scrupulously maintained the quiet. And who knows what will happen now—Islamic terror, al-Qaida, chaos?"

Through its close relationship with Iran, Syria has allowed the Shiite powerhouse to extend its influence into neighboring Lebanon and the Palestinian territories, where it provides money and weapons to Hezbollah and Hamas militants.

78 die in Yemen blast that increases fear of chaos

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemen's chaos deepened on Monday when people looting a munitions factory set off an accidental explosion that killed at least 78 in an area torn from government control by Islamist militants exploiting the president's rapidly dwindling power.

The militant seizure of the factory and nearby towns amplified Western fears that the fragile Yemeni state could deteriorate quickly because of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's standoff with an opposition coalition of youth groups, military defectors, clerics and tribal leaders calling for his ouster.

Saleh has cooperated closely with the U.S. in the battle against Yemen's branch of al-Qaida, which has used areas of Yemen long out of state control to launch attacks including the attempt to bomb a Detroit-bound airliner with a bomb sewn into underwear.

Saleh has also battled regional rebellions in the north and south.

State control diminished sharply this month as massive demonstrations spiraled in major cities and the government pulled police from many towns, and anti-government protesters in other areas pushed out police and soldiers and set up militias for self-defense. The protesters blame Saleh for mismanagement, repression and the fatal shootings of protesters, and say they will not relent until he goes.

On Sunday, armed men whom residents described as religious militants seized the towns of Jaar and al-Husn, a hilltop overlooking them, and the factory that makes Kalashnikov assault rifles, ammunitions and explosives used to build roads in the mountainous southern province of Abyan, where Yemen's al-Qaida branch has been active.

Residents offered few details about the militants' identities or broader allegiances.

"As the central government continues to erode in Yemen, something will fill the gap," said Christopher Boucek, a Yemen expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "Who will thrive in that space ... is something we very much need to be worried about," he said.

Focus

Japan nuclear plant downplayed tsunami risk

By JUSTIN PRITCHARD and YURI KAGEYAMA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—In planning their defense against a killer tsunami, the people running Japan's now-hobbled nuclear power plant dismissed important scientific evidence and all but disregarded 3,000 years of geological history, an Associated Press investigation shows.

The misplaced confidence displayed by Tokyo Electric Power Co. was prompted by a series of overly optimistic assumptions that concluded the Earth couldn't possibly release the level of fury it did two weeks ago, pushing the six-reactor Fukushima Dai-ichi complex to the brink of multiple meltdowns.

Instead of the reactors staying dry, as contemplated under the power company's worst-case scenario, the plant was overrun by a torrent of water much higher and stronger than the utility argued could occur, according to an AP analysis of records, documents and statements from researchers, the utility and the Japan's national nuclear safety agency.

And while TEPCO and government officials have said no one could have anticipated such a massive tsunami, there is ample evidence that such waves have struck the northeast coast of Japan before—and that it could happen again along the culprit fault line, which runs roughly north to south, offshore, about 220 miles (350 kilometers) east of the plant.

TEPCO officials say they had a good system for projecting tsunamis. They declined to provide more detailed explanations, saying they were focused on the ongoing nuclear crisis.

What is clear: TEPCO officials discounted important readings from a network of GPS units that showed that the two tectonic plates that create the fault were strongly "coupled," or stuck together, thus storing up extra stress along a line hundreds of miles long. The greater the distance and stickiness of such coupling, experts say, the higher the stress buildup—pressure that can be violently released in an earthquake.

That evidence, published in scientific journals starting a decade ago, represented the kind of telltale characteristics of a fault being able to produce the truly overwhelming quake—and therefore tsunami—that it did.

On top of that, TEPCO modeled the worst-case tsunami using its own computer program instead of an internationally accepted prediction method.

It matters how Japanese calculate risk. In short, they rely heavily on what has happened to figure out what might happen, even if the probability is extremely low. If the view of what has happened isn't accurate, the risk assessment can be faulty.

That approach led to TEPCO's disregard of much of Japan's tsunami history.

In postulating the maximum-sized earthquake and tsunami that the Fukushima Dai-ichi complex might face, TEPCO's engineers decided not to factor in quakes earlier than 1896. That meant the experts excluded a major quake that occurred more than 1,000 years ago—a tremor followed by a powerful tsunami that hit many of the same locations as the recent disaster.

A TEPCO reassessment presented only four months ago concluded that tsunami-driven water would push no higher than 18 feet (5.7 meters) once it hit the shore at the Fukushima Dai-ichi complex. The reactors sit up a small bluff, between 14 and 23 feet (4.3 and 6.3 meters) above TEPCO's projected high-water mark, according to a presentation at a November seismic safety conference in Japan by TEPCO civil engineer Makoto Takao.

"We assessed and confirmed the safety of the nuclear plants," Takao asserted.

However, the wall of water that thundered ashore two weeks ago reached about 27 feet (8.2 meters) above TEPCO's prediction. The flooding disabled backup power generators, located in basements or on first floors, imperiling the nuclear reactors and their nearby spent fuel pools.

The story leading up to the Tsunami of 2011 goes back many, many years—several millennia, in fact.

The Jogan tsunami of 869 displayed striking similarities to the events in and around the Fukushima Dai-ichi reactors. The importance of that disaster, experts told the AP, is that the most accurate planning for worst-case scenarios is to study the largest events over the longest period of time. In other words, use the most data possible.

The evidence shows that plant operators should have known of the dangers—or, if they did know, disregarded them.

As early as 2001, a group of scientists published a paper documenting the Jogan tsunami. They estimated waves of nearly 26 feet (8 meters) at Soma, about 25 miles north of the plant. North of there, they concluded that a surge from the sea swept sand more than 2 1/2 miles (4 kilometers) inland across the Sendai plain. The latest tsunami pushed water at least about 1 1/2 miles (2 kilometers) inland.

The scientists also found two additional layers of sand and concluded that two additional "gigantic tsunamis" had hit the region during the past 3,000 years, both presumably comparable to Jogan. Carbon dating couldn't pinpoint exactly when the other two hit, but the study's authors put the range of those layers of sand at between 140 B.C. and A.D. 150, and between 670 B.C. and 910 B.C.

In a 2007 paper published in the peer-reviewed journal Pure and Applied Geophysics, two TEPCO employees and three outside researchers explained their approach to assessing the tsunami threat to Japan's nuclear reactors, all 54 of which sit near the sea or ocean.

To ensure the safety of Japan's coastal power plants, they recommended that facilities be designed to withstand the highest tsunami "at the site among all historical and possible future tsunamis that can be estimated," based on local seismic characteristics.

But the authors went on to write that tsunami records before 1896 could be less reliable because of "misreading, misrecording and the low technology available for the measurement itself." The TEPCO employees and their colleagues concluded, "Records that appear unreliable should be excluded."

Two years later, in 2009, another set of researchers concluded that the Jogan tsunami had reached 1 mile (1.5 kilometers) inland at Namie, about 6 miles (10 kilometers) north of the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant.

The warning from the 2001 report about the 3,000-year history would prove to be most telling: "The recurrence interval for a large-scale tsunami is 800 to 1,100 years. More than 1,100 years have passed since the Jogan tsunami, and, given the reoccurrence interval, the possibility of a large tsunami striking the Sendai plain is high."

The fault involved in the Fukushima Dai-ichi tsunami is part of what is known as a subduction zone. In subduction zones, one tectonic plate dives under another. When the fault ruptures, the sea floor snaps upward, pushing up the water above it and potentially creating a tsunami. Subduction zones are common around Japan and throughout the Pacific Ocean region.

TEPCO's latest calculations were started after a magnitude-8.8 subduction zone earthquake off the coast of Chile in February 2010.

In such zones over the past 50 years, earthquakes of magnitude 9.0 or greater have occurred in Alaska, Chile and Indonesia. All produced large tsunamis.

When two plates are locked across a large area of a subduction zone, the potential for a giant earthquake increases. And those are the exact characteristics of where the most recent quake occurred.

TEPCO "absolutely should have known better," said Dr. Costas Synolakis, a leading American expert on tsunami modeling and an engineering professor at the University of Southern California. "Common sense," he said, should have produced a larger predicted maximum water level at the plant.

TEPCO's tsunami modelers did not judge that, in a worst-case scenario, the strong subduction and coupling conditions present off the coast of Fukushima Dai-ichi could produce the 9.0-magnitude earthquake that occurred. Instead, it figured the maximum at 8.6 magnitude, meaning the March 11 quake was four times as powerful as the presumed maximum.

Shogo Fukuda, a TEPCO spokesman, said that 8.6 was the maximum magnitude entered into the TEPCO internal computer modeling for Fukushima Dai-ichi.

Another TEPCO spokesman, Motoyasu Tamaki, used a new buzzword, "sotegai," or "outside our imagination," to describe what actually occurred.

U.S. tsunami experts said that one reason the estimates for Fukushima Dai-ichi were so low was the way Japan calculates risk. Because of the island nation's long history of killer waves, Japanese experts often will look at what has happened—then project forward what is likely to happen again.

AP impact

Under longstanding U.S. standards that are gaining popularity around the world, risk assessments typically scheme up a worst-case scenario based on what could happen, then design a facility like a nuclear power plant to withstand such a collection of conditions—factoring in just about everything short of an extremely unlikely cataclysm, like a large meteor hitting the ocean and creating a massive wave that kills hundreds of thousands.

In the early 1990s, Harry Yeh, now a tsunami expert and engineering professor at Oregon State University, was helping assess potential threats to the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant on the central California coast in the United States. During that exercise, he said, researchers considered a worst-case scenario involving a significantly larger earthquake than had ever been recorded there.

And then a tsunami was added. And in that Diablo Canyon model, the quake hit during a monster storm that was already pushing onto the shore higher waves than had ever been measured at the site.

In contrast, when TEPCO calculated its high-water mark at 18 feet (5.7 meters), the anticipated maximum earthquake was in the same range as others recorded off the coast of Fukushima Dai-ichi—and the only assumption about the water level was that the tsunami arrived at high tide.

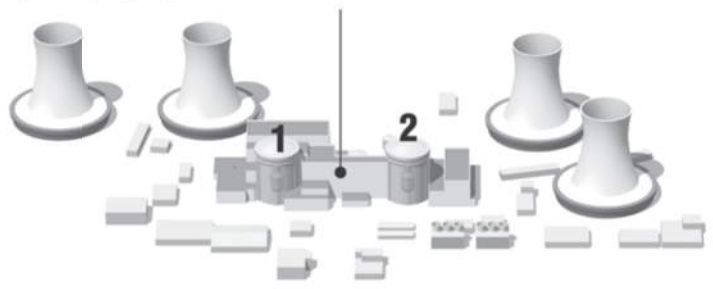
Which, as is abundantly clear now, could not have been more wrong.

Comparing nuclear accidents

Here's how the Fukushima crisis compares with Three Mile Island, the worst U.S. nuclear accident, and the Chernobyl disaster, the world's worst meltdown:

Three Mile Island nuclear plant

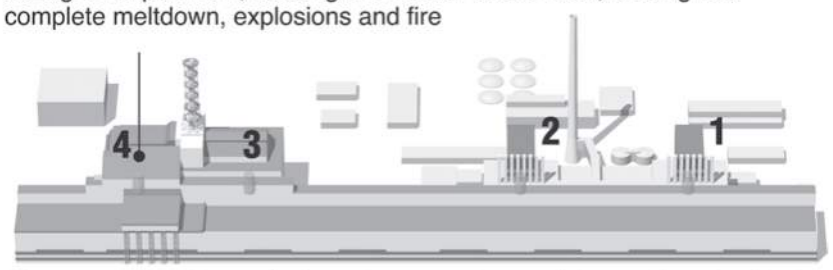
Cause A relief valve in reactor No. 2 stuck, releasing cooling water as steam, which caused the reactor core to overheat; plant operators, reacting to confusing data, then mistakenly shut off cooling water to the core, prompting a partial meltdown



First operational 1974
Date of accident March 28, 1979
No. of reactors 2
Current status No. 1 operating; No. 2 permanently shut down
Immediate deaths 0
People evacuated 140,000

Chernobyl nuclear plant

Cause Operators deliberately disabled safety systems in reactor No. 4 during an experiment, causing the reactor to overheat, leading to a complete meltdown, explosions and fire

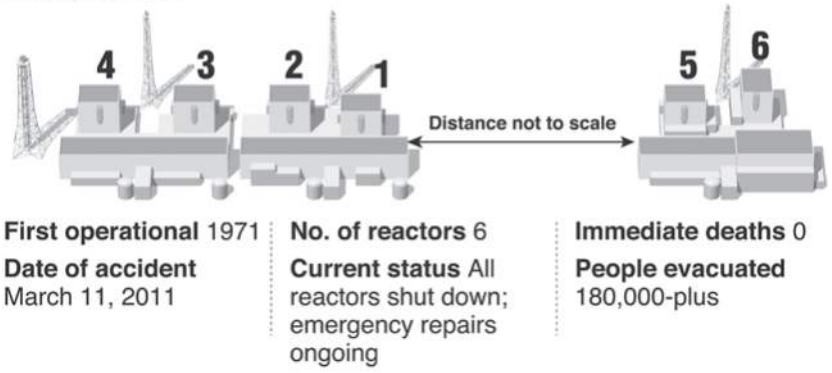


First operational 1977
Date of accident April 26, 1986
No. of reactors 4
Current status All reactors permanently shut down
Immediate deaths 31
People evacuated 336,000 total (116,000 initially)

NOTE: The accident caused at least 4,000 cases of thyroid cancer in people who were exposed as children

Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant

Cause An earthquake knocked out the plant's primary power and a subsequent tsunami disabled pumps needed for emergency cooling systems



First operational 1971
Date of accident March 11, 2011
No. of reactors 6
Current status All reactors shut down; emergency repairs ongoing
Immediate deaths 0
People evacuated 180,000-plus

Source: USDPI, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, IAEA
Graphic: Wil Ramirez, Doug Stevens, Los Angeles Times

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Campus Life

106 finish Motheread/Fatheread adult courses

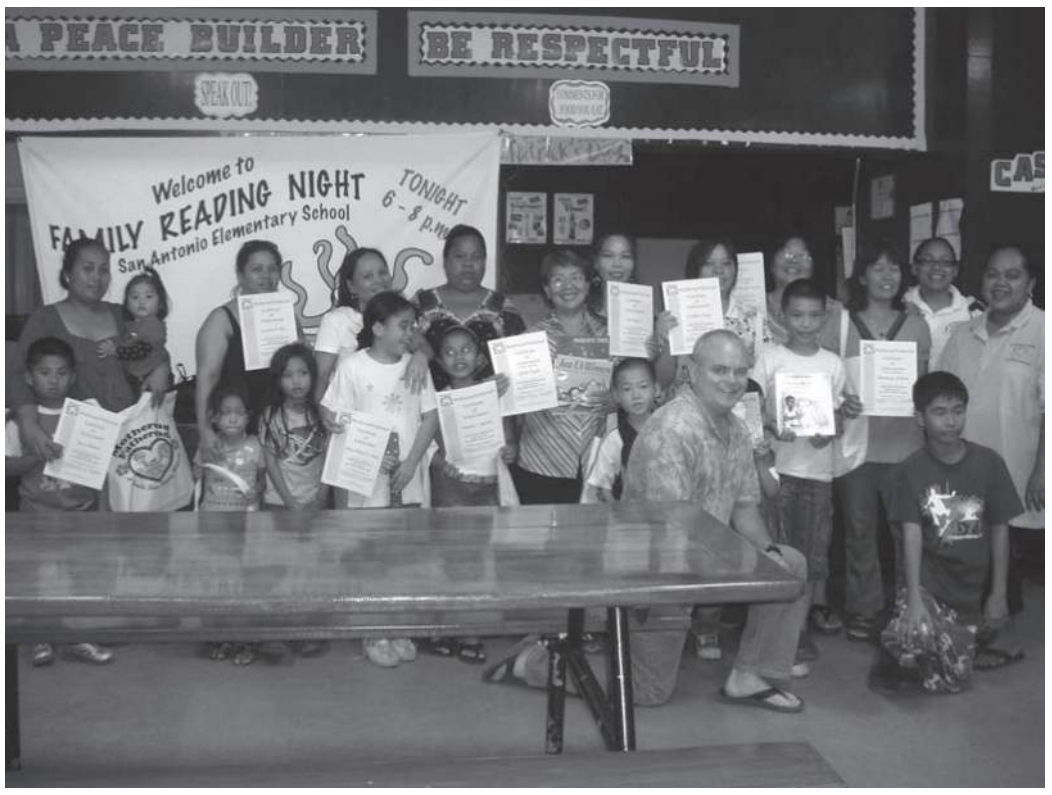
Ten elementary school sites hosted Motheread/Fatheread adult courses from Jan. 18 to March 18, 2011, with 106 adult participants completing the requirements of the course.

A total of 255 had signed up for the series of literacy class trainings and 157 participated the actual class sessions.

Each Motheread/Fatheread trainer tailored their lesson plans according to the social context of the adult participants at their school sites. Also the holistic/non-deficit perspective approach of the program implementation made the training sessions non-intimidating to the adult participants. Most of the participants commented at the end of the course that they enjoyed the training sessions and at the same time acquired literary strategies that they could use at home for their child/ren.

The different elementary school sites staged a variety of literary activities signaling the end of the Motheread/Fatheread trainings, including dramatizations, group read-alouds, and short plays. Each site closure shows the uniquely diverse composition and character of the participants in the program. Family and friends joined them in the closing activities, and finished it with light refreshments shared by all.

Newly trained Motheread/Fatheread trainers from the last Motheread Institute, held on Oct. 9-11, 2010, facilitated the class sessions. These trainers—Celina Romolor-Route, Lyzandra Barcinas, Rhea Chong, Debbie Canete, Amor Rabauliman, Beth Demapan, Wilma Atalig, Larry Manacop, Ma. Con San Nicolas, Nolyn Villagomez, Lilia King, Lourdes Cabrera, and Celina Foreman—facilitated the adult course sessions at elementary schools.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the Motheread/Fatheread adult courses at San Antonio Elementary School.

On Tinian, ongoing Motheread/Fatheread class sessions are being held at the Tinian Elementary School and at Tinian Head Start center. Class sessions of participating parents from Grace Christian Academy are also being held at the elementary school. Tinian Motheread/Fatheread trainers, Lou Connie Manglona, Evelyn Evangelista, Lorna Hofscneider, and Celina Farrell are implementing the program at these sites.

Rota trainers Mary Lyn Ogo, Geri Dela Cruz, Joan San Nicolas, and Barry Toves are recruiting participants or are facilitating ongoing class session at Head Start centers and other sites.

Motheread/Fatheread is a nationally recognized and highly acclaimed literacy development program designed to help parents of young children use selected storybooks and a variety of interactive activities to develop their children's reading, critical thinking, and problem solving skills. The program conducts classes for adults: parents, grandparents, child-caregivers or anyone who lives/works in an environment where they can read to children. The class sessions are held once a week for eight weeks. The duration of each class is flexible and normally takes one to two hours.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the Motheread/Fatheread adult courses at the William S. Reyes Elementary School.

Motheread/Fatheread is a community-based program. The classes could be held at any venue conducive and convenient for the participants. Currently most of the class sessions are held at elementary school sites, at the Head Start centers and at Joeten-Kiyu Public library.

The CNMI Motheread/Fatheread program is administered by the NMI Council for the Humanities and receives support from the CNMI Public School System, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and a variety of private businesses. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the Motheread/Fatheread adult courses at Dandan Elementary School.

Rota students get laptops from PSS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seventh and eighth grade students pose with their parents, school principal, class adviser, and computer teacher after they were given their laptops from PSS.

The administration, school board of directors, and seventh and eighth grade students of the Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja are thankful to the Public School System and Board of Education Rota representative Tanya King for their help in making laptops a reality for their students.

Students from Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja had the opportunity to have their own computer to do their class work, thanks to the CNMI PSS Federal Programs.

The seventh and eighth grade classes will be using their laptops during their computer class and will be able to take them home to continue their assignments. The laptops will give students tools to create interactive media—stories, animations, games, music, and art—that they can share on the Web.

In addition, the students will learn important mathematical and computational ideas, while also gaining a deeper understanding of using their laptops.

The students' parents were present to witness the distribution of the laptops by school principal Sr. Ma. Zosima N. Capua, RVM, 7th and 8th grade class adviser Mary Rose Lucero, and ESFDB board president Edward C. Maratita, Jr.

The laptops were procured as part of the system's One-Laptop-Per-Child project, using $2.2 million of the federal State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. Under PSS' One-Laptop-Per Child project, middle and high schools students in private and public schools are entitled to the laptops. The units are equipped with cameras, WiFi, and touch screens.

The computers are being advertised as a means to boost student learning and performance. ***(PR)***

Life & Style

Where does 'Sucker Punch' leave Zack Snyder?

LOS ANGELES—He had a promising debut, a monster hit, a slight disappointment and a slightly larger disappointment. And in the last few weeks he's become one of the more polarizing directors out there.

But now things really get interesting for Zack Snyder.

The provocative filmmaker will in a few months begin shooting "Superman: Man of Steel," a reboot of perhaps the most beloved character in the history of movies (a point underlined Sunday with the news about Snyder's choice of Amy Adams to play Lois Lane). But just where exactly do Snyder's fan cachet, and box-office drawing power, lie in the wake of this past weekend's "Sucker Punch"?

The helmer of "Dawn of the Dead" (the promising debut), "300" (the monster hit) "Watchmen," (the slight disappointment) and "Legend of the Guardians" (the slightly larger disappointment) unveiled his girls-with-guns action-adventure this weekend.

CLAY ENOS/COURTESY WARNER BROS. PICTURES/MCT

Emily Browning, from left, Jena Malone and Abbie Cornish talk with director Zack Snyder during the filming of Warner Bros. Pictures' and Legendary Pictures' epic action fantasy, "Sucker Punch," a Warner Bros. Pictures release.

The Babydoll vehicle evoked some harsh words from critics, which could set up a hurdle with at least one group for the 2012 release of "Superman," albeit a group that doesn't much figure into the marketing of a Hollywood tent pole.

Although the "Sucker Punch" box-office results showed that Snyder still has plenty of supporters—the movie opened to about $20 million, the second-lowest number of his career but a respectable figure that was in line with pre-release expectations—the film also caused divisions among fanboys and fangirls, with some naysayers taking the opportunity to assess Snyder's "Superman" chops.

"Sucker Punch is a loud, gaudy, fetishistic, bombastic piece of cinema," wrote Ain't It Cool News contributor Ambush Bug. "It's also hollow, remedial, and bereft of substance...as the minutes passed, bringing me closer to the time for the credits to roll, all I could think of was how wrong of a choice this director is for a Superman film." (Overall, the movie garnered a decent if not overwhelming B-minus CinemaScore among general audiences.)

Snyder riles up filmgoers the way few other directors do—it could be that some people really have their stomach turned by his movies, or it could just be that, like a sort of Comic-con version of "Dogtooth," Snyder movies somehow began eliciting both love and hate early on, and the arguments now just perpetuate themselves. Not every superhero director can be Christopher Nolan.

It's hard to say where the road turns next for Snyder. Warner Bros., which is behind both "Superman" and "Sucker Punch," drew a distinction between the two films, with Jeff Goldstein, executive vice president of distribution, telling my colleague Amy Kaufman that "a film like 'Sucker Punch' brought out (Snyder's) core fan base, but he has a lot of potential, and with a bigger, broader title, he can attract a wider audience, as he has in the past."

Much of the success of this mission will course depend on the quality (and, given one of the reviewer knocks on "Sucker Punch," the narrative coherence) of "Superman: Man of Steel." It should be noted that hardcore fans are often skeptical toward casting and filmmaker choices at first but come around when a movie opens. And plenty of directors, of both comic-book movies and every other genre, have managed to turn around even groups hard-wired to oppose them (see under: Oliver Stone and conservatives on "World Trade Center").

Still, once a filmmaker loses currency with the fan community, it's not always easy to get it back. That seems especially true for a property such as "Superman," where even those storytellers who come in with buckets of goodwill can run into problems (just ask Bryan Singer). Snyder has his work cut out for him. It just may not be superhuman work, at least not yet.

Portuguese architect Souto de Moura wins Pritzker

By JACOB ADELMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

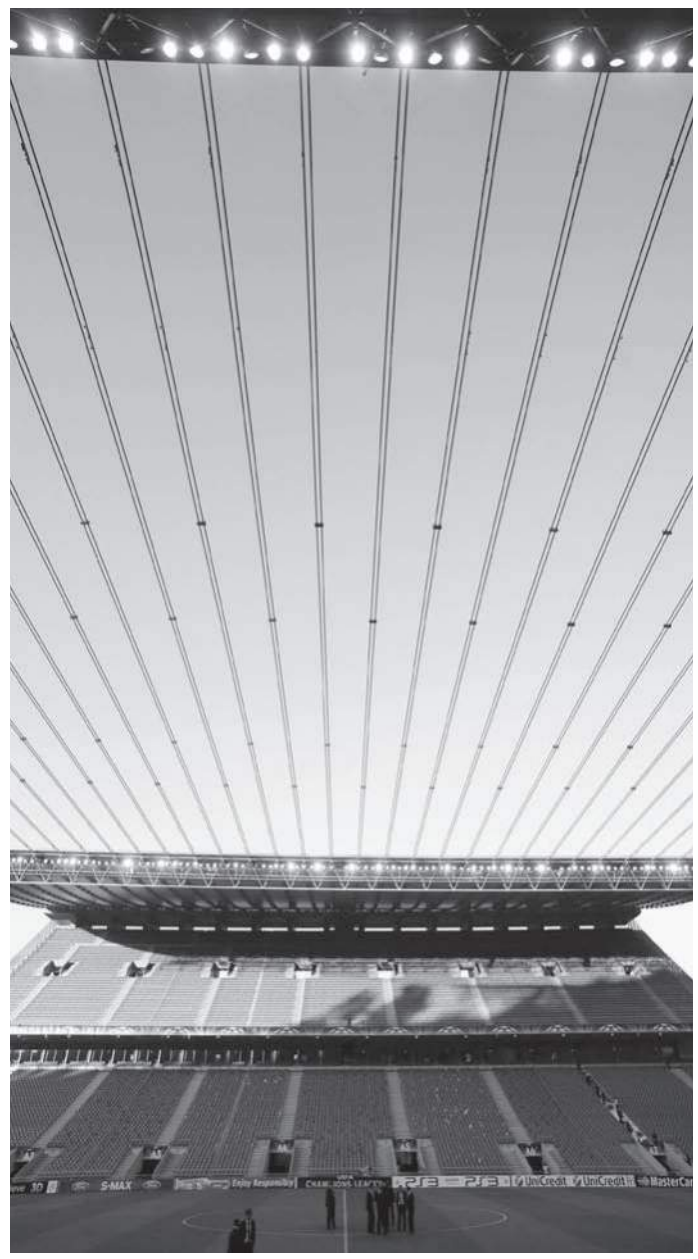
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Portuguese architect Eduardo Souto de Moura, whose buildings are praised for their careful use of natural materials and their unexpected dashes of color, has won the 2011 Pritzker Architecture Prize, the prize's jury announced Monday.

Souto de Moura, 58, joins Frank Gehry, Tadao Ando and Renzo Piano in receiving the honor that's often called architecture's Nobel Prize. Souto de Moura is recognized for the homes, hotels, museums, sports facilities and other structures he has designed, predominantly in Portugal but also in several other European countries.

"Eduardo Souto de Moura's architecture is not obvious, frivolous or picturesque. It is imbued with intelligence and seriousness," the Pritzker jurors wrote in their citation. "His work requires an intense encounter, not a quick glance. And like poetry, it is able to communicate emotionally to those who take the time to listen."

In past remarks, Souto de Moura has stressed the importance of designing buildings that modestly perform their function and fit in with their surroundings, on both an immediate and a global level.

"There is no ecological architecture, no intelligent architecture, no sustainable architecture—there is only good architecture," he said at a building forum in 2004. "There are always problems we must not neglect. For example, energy, resources, costs, social aspects—one must always pay attention to all these."



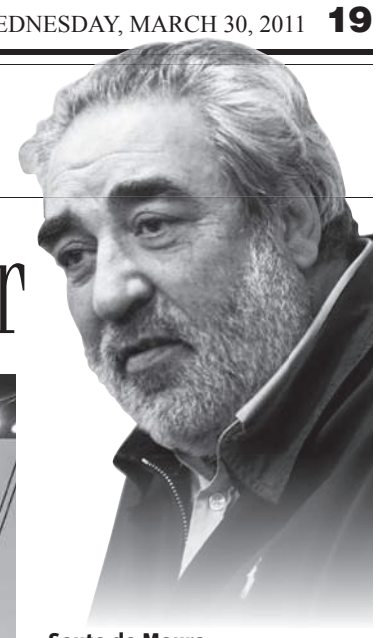
AP

In this Oct. 19, 2010 file photo, a soccer stadium built by Portuguese architect Eduardo Souto de Moura is seen in the city of Braga, Portugal, where the European soccer championship was held in 2004.

Among the projects mentioned by the Pritzker jury was the sports stadium he built into a mountainside in the city of Braga, Portugal, where the European soccer championship was held in 2004.

Jurors characterized the structure as "muscular, monumental and very much at home within its powerful landscape."

The jury also mentioned Souto de Moura's restoration and adaptation of a convent and monastery complex near the northern Portuguese town of Amares.



Souto de Moura

The project took the Santa Maria Do Bouro Monastery "from rubble to reinterpretation," the jurors wrote. "Souto de Moura has created spaces that are both consistent with their history and modern in conception."

Souto de Moura, who previously worked for 1992's Pritzker laureate Alvaro Siza, began his career as an independent architect in 1980, after winning a design competition for a culture center in his native city of Porto.

Along with his architecture practice, Souto de Moura is a professor at the University of Oporto, and is a visiting professor at Harvard, as well as several European universities.

The formal Pritzker ceremony will be held June 2 at Washington, D.C.'s Andrew W. Mellon auditorium, itself considered one of the finest classical buildings in the United States. Souto de Moura will receive a $100,000 grant and a bronze medallion.

Souto de Moura is the second Pritzker laureate to be chosen from Portugal, after Siza.

"When I received the phone call telling me I was to be the Pritzker laureate, I could hardly believe it," Souto de Moura said in a written statement. "The fact that this is the second time a Portuguese architect has been chosen makes it even more important."

Beyonce's father will no longer manage her career

NEW YORK (AP)—Beyonce will no longer be managed by her father, Mathew Knowles, her publicist said Monday.

The Grammy-winning singer and her father have parted ways "on a business level," publicist Yvette Noel-Schure told The Associated Press in a statement.

"I am grateful for everything he has taught me," Beyonce said in the statement. "I grew up watching both he and my mother manage and own their own businesses. They were hardworking entrepreneurs and I will continue to follow in their footsteps."

She didn't say what led to the split, but her father said in a separate statement to the AP late Monday that the decision was mutual.

Knowles has managed his daughter since she debuted as a teen in the multiplatinum-selling group Destiny's Child in the late 1990s and throughout her superstar career as a solo artist.

Knowles oversaw all aspects of Beyonce, from music to movies to fashion and more. Her career includes 16 Grammy awards, top-grossing movies "Dreamgirls" and "Obsessed," fashion ventures and lucrative endorsements.

The 29-year-old has released three multiplatinum albums—"Dangerously In Love," "B'Day" and "I Am ... Sasha Fierce"—and has 12 Top 10 hits on Billboard's Hot 100 chart, including five No. 1s. Destiny's Child had 11 Top 10 hits on the Hot 100 chart and six No. 1s.

During Beyonce's teen years in Houston, Knowles prepped her, her friend Kelly Rowland and two others for a rising career as an R&B girl group, and Destiny's Child released its self-titled debut in 1998. Their sophomore album, "The Writing's On the Wall," came a year later and garnered multiple hits and two Grammys, but the success also shook up the band and Destiny's Child became a trio with Beyonce, Rowland and Michelle Williams.

Beyonce

The three also released solo albums, all managed by Knowles. He launched his own label, World Music Entertainment, via Columbia Records, a division of Sony Music.

Rowland parted with Knowles as her manager in 2009 and Williams followed a year later.

In the statement, Beyonce stressed her devotion to her father on a personal level.

"He is my father for life and I love my dad dearly. I am grateful for everything he has taught me," Beyonce said.

Knowles also got personal in his statement.

"Business is business and family is family. I love my daughter and am very proud of who she is and all that she has achieved. I look forward to her continued great success," he said.

Knowles and Beyonce's mother, Tina, divorced in 2009 after 29 years of marriage. Tina Knowles worked as a stylist for Destiny's Child and continues to style her daughter. Together they launched a clothing line, House of Dereon.

Noel-Schure didn't comment on who Beyonce's new manager would be.

Knowles said his plans include focusing on his label's work in gospel and inspirational music, where he said the company has made a "tremendous investment."

Taylor's unpublished love letters up for auction

By HOLLY RAMER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CONCORD, New Hampshire (AP)—Before becoming a bride eight times over, Elizabeth Taylor was a 17-year-old starlet scribbling letters to her first fiance, charting on pale pink stationery his progression from her one-and-only to the one who got away.

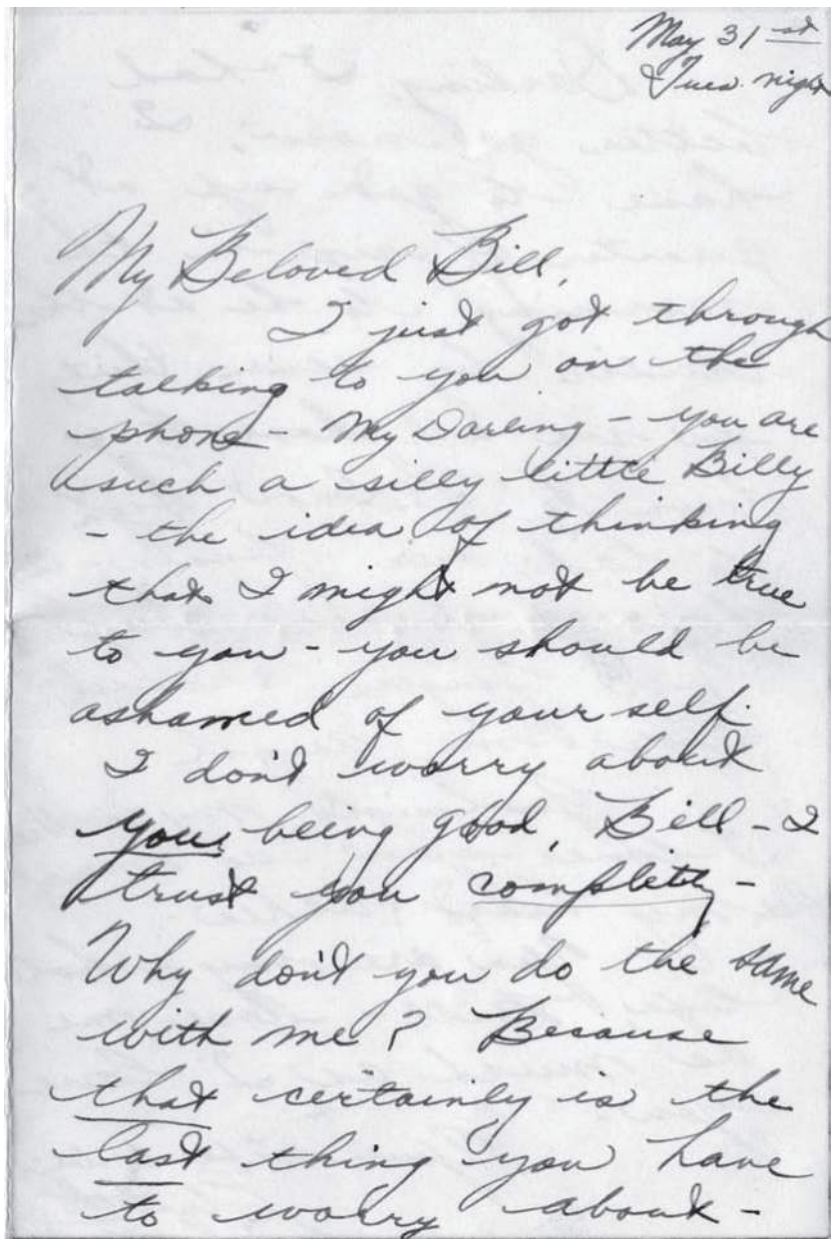
"I've never known this kind of love before—it's so perfect and complete—and mature," Taylor wrote to William Pawley on May 6, 1949. "I've never loved anyone in my life before one third as much as I love you—and I never will (well, as far as that goes—I'll never love anyone else—period)."

Taylor, who died last week at age 79, was engaged to Pawley in 1949, just before her first marriage. More than 60 of the letters she wrote him between March and October of that year will be auctioned in May by RR Auctions of Amherst, New Hampshire. It bought the letters two years ago from Pawley, who lives in Florida.

The unpublished letters—some written in purple fountain ink on pink paper—provide a glimpse of a teenager's transition to adult screen star.

She frets about her weight ("As I'm sitting here—writing to you, I'm just stuffing myself on a box of candy—honestly I've got to stop eating so much") and passing her high school exams. And she contrasts two movies she was filming at the time, "A Place in the Sun" and "The Big Hangover," praising the director of the former and complaining about her role in the latter.

But mostly, she gushes about Pawley, the 22-year-old son of a former ambassador to Brazil, reassuring him over and over that her love is true.


May 31st
Tues night

My Beloved Bill,
I just got through talking to you on the phone - My Darling - you are such a silly little Billy - the idea of thinking that I might not be true to you - you should be ashamed of yourself. I don't worry about you being good, Bill - I trust you completely - Why don't you do the same with me? Because that certainly is the last thing you have to worry about -

AP
This photo released by RR Auction of Amherst, N.H., shows the first page of a letter written on May 31, 1949, by the late actress Elizabeth Taylor, written to her first fiance, William Pawley, when she was 17 years-old. The two were engaged briefly in 1949.

"My heart aches & makes me want to cry when I think of you, and how much I want to be with and to look into your beautiful blue eyes, and kiss your sweet lips and have your strong arms hold me, oh so tight, & close to you ... I want us to be 'lovers' always ... even after we've been married seventy-five years and have at least a dozen great-great-grandchildren," she wrote on March 28.

In May, she told Pawley she was ready to say goodbye to her career and everything connected with it, "For I won't be giving anything up—but I will be gaining the greatest gift that God bestows on man—love, marriage, a family—and you my Darling."

By September, however, Taylor was writing about returning her engagement ring at Pawley's request.

"I know with all my heart and soul that this is not the end for us—it couldn't be—we love each other too much," she wrote.

Less than eight months later, she married hotel heir Conrad Nicholson "Nicky" Hilton.

The online auction, set for May 19-26, will also feature letters Taylor's mother wrote to Pawley after the engagement ended, including one in which she wrote, "You have a nervous condition and a problem with jealousy, as such you and Elizabeth can never be together."

Bobby Livingston, spokesman for the auction house, said the letters were estimated to be worth $25,000 to $35,000 before Taylor's death, and he expects they could fetch two or three times that amount now.

Website to pay $950,000 for posting Beatles hits

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A website that sold Beatles songs online for 25 cents apiece before they became legally available has agreed to pay record companies nearly $1 million to settle a federal lawsuit.

U.S. District Judge Josephine Staton Tucker signed off on the settlement between BlueBeat.com and music companies EMI Group PLC, Capitol Records and Virgin Records America on Friday. The judge ruled in December that the site violated the music labels' copyrights and presented unfair competition.

A trial to determine how much BlueBeat owed the companies was scheduled to begin Tuesday in Santa Ana, Calif.

BlueBeat streamed and sold music by the Fab Four and other top-name acts, including Coldplay and Lily Allen, for several days before music companies sued to shut it down in November 2009. By then, the site had already distributed more than 67,000 songs by The Beatles.

The posting of Beatles songs came shortly after the release of the group's re-mastered albums and a pricey box set. A year later, Apple Inc. announced with great fanfare that it was selling Beatles music on its popular music service iTunes.

Within the first week, more than 2 million Beatles songs were purchased online for $1.29 apiece and 450,000 albums were sold.

BlueBeat had denied wrongdoing, claiming owner Hank Risan had pioneered a method called "psycho-acoustic simulation" that resulted in unique versions of copyrighted music.

The judge rejected his arguments and explanations of his technique in her December ruling, noting that Risan's recordings were based on copies of CDs that he had purchased.

Risan said the settlement amount was a fraction of what the companies sought. He said the site, which is still active but doesn't have any Beatles music available, is still working to register copyrights for 800,000 recordings.

"So long as we pay royalties, we can stream their stuff all day and all night without a problem," said BlueBeat's attorney Archie Robinson.

Buckingham Palace gearing up for big wedding

LONDON (AP)—Few people are likely to turn down one of the prized invitations to the post-wedding gathering Queen Elizabeth II will throw at Buckingham Palace after Prince William and Kate Middleton tie the knot on April 29.

It's not just the glamour of the wedding itself, or the chance to hobnob with Britain's elite. It's also an opportunity to wander through the central London palace, an opulent attraction in its own right that is being spruced up for the big eve19nt.

Officials said Tuesday that state rooms will be used for the afternoon reception on April 29, which will be followed that evening by a more intimate dinner and dance for 300 friends of the royal couple.

Some of the palace's finest art will be on display—think masterpieces by Canaletto, Rembrandt, Rubens, Titian and others of their stature—and food prepared by chefs accustomed to using only finest ingredients and some of the world's best wines.

"Whenever we have a special event at Buckingham Palace we make sure that the greatest artworks are on display and make sure people are going to see the best of Buckingham Palace," said Jennifer Scott, assistant curator of paintings at the Royal Collection. "For anybody who studied history of art, walking into this room is such a gift, it's such an experience."

William and Middleton probably won't need to be briefed about the stories behind the paintings—both studied art history when they met as freshmen at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Scott said the palace was used by Queen Victoria for some of the opulent parties that defined her reign. She became the first monarch to take up residence at the palace in 1837.

"If you were to come to one of those balls in the 19th century you would be enjoying a great social occasion but also you would be in this setting, and so really it's perfect for that," she said. "When you get an idea of the special quality of this place, it's magical, it really oozes history."

Plans call for a number of state rooms in the west wing to be used for the reception, including the white drawing room, the music room, the blue drawing room and the state dining room along with the nearby picture gallery, where the multitiered wedding cake is expected to be on display.

Edward Griffiths, Deputy Master of the Household, said palace staff is used to hosting big events and caters to roughly 50,000 guests a year.

He said 60 people will be working at the afternoon reception, doing everything from opening car doors for guests to serving them canapes and drinks, including wine and champagne.

Painting from Baryshnikov collection to sell in NY

NEW YORK (AP)—A 19th century painting of St. Petersburg that Mikhail Baryshnikov purchased decades ago will be auctioned to help benefit new works at his Baryshnikov Arts Center in New York City.

"Old art should make new art," the ballet dancer and actor said Monday.

"View of St. Petersburg" by Petr Petrovich Vereshchagin is to be sold at Sotheby's on April 12 as part of the auction house's Russian art sale, where it is expected to fetch $300,000 to $500,000.

Baryshnikov said he recently donated the painting to the center's foundation so it could sell it to raise money for new programming from theater directors, musicians and choreographers.

Baryshnikov is the artistic director of the BAC, which he founded in 2005 as a "creative laboratory" and performance space for multidisciplinary artists from around the world. Located in Manhattan's Hell's Kitchen, it houses four studios, a studio theater and the 232-seat Jerome Robbins Theater. It offers performances in chamber music, dance, theater and visual arts and film screenings.

Baryshnikov told The Associated Press in a telephone interview that he was very sentimental about "View of St. Petersburg" because he "spent the best of my youth" there.

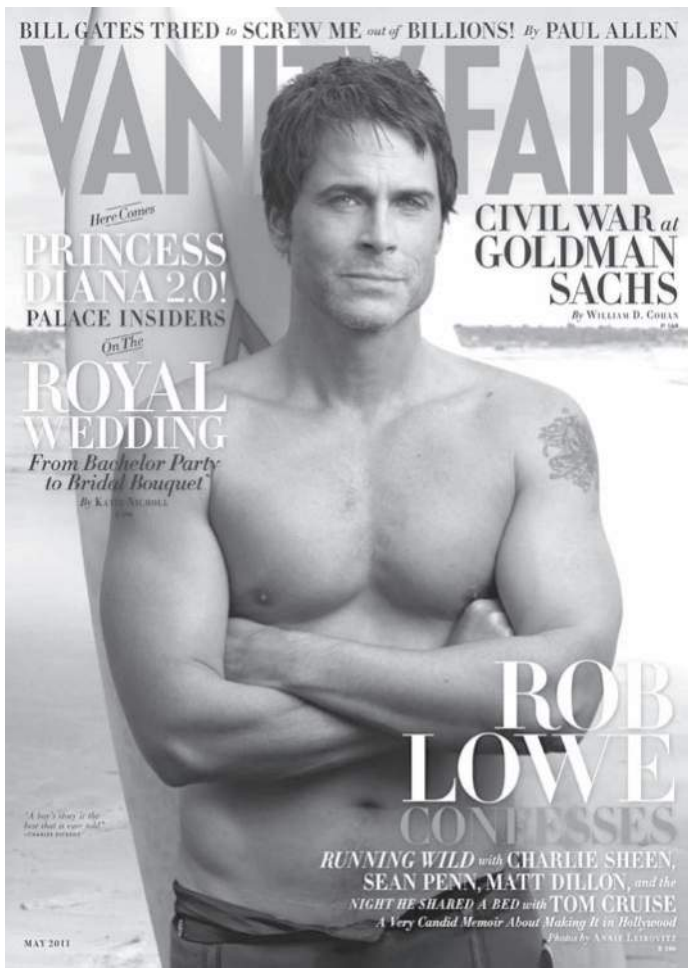
"But I feel that this money can be spent now on new art ... that's much more important than a look back and being nostalgic about the past," he added.

He said the young nonprofit arts center did not yet have an endowment and relied on donations from individuals, corporations and "the kindness of strangers."

Baryshnikov said he has already donated hundreds of works from his extensive 19th- and 20th-century art collection to his center's foundation but that the Vereshchagin work was the first to be sold to benefit the organization.

AP
This undated photo provided by Sotheby's in New York shows the painting "View of St. Petersburg" by Petr Petrovich Vereshchagin, which is to be sold at Sotheby's on April 12, 2011, as part of the auction house's Russian art sale, where it is expected to fetch $300,000 to $500,000.

Rob Lowe dishes on early years with Charlie Sheen


BILL GATES TRIED to SCREW ME out of BILLIONS! By PAUL ALLEN
VANITY FAIR
Here Comes
PRINCESS DIANA 2.0!
PALACE INSIDERS
On The
ROYAL WEDDING
From Bachelor Party to Bridal Bouquet
By KATIE NICHOLL
CIVIL WAR at GOLDMAN SACHS
By WILLIAM D. COHAN
ROB LOWE CONFESSES
RUNNING WILD with CHARLIE SHEEN, SEAN PENN, MATT DILLON, and the NIGHT HE SHARED A BED with TOM CRUISE
A Very Candid Memoir About Making It in Hollywood
Photos by ANNIE LEIBOVITZ
MAY 2011

In this magazine cover image taken by Annie Leibovitz exclusively for Vanity Fair, actor Rob Lowe is shown on the cover of the May 2011 issue of "Vanity Fair." AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Rob Lowe gives fellow Brat Packer Charlie Sheen a slight edge when it comes to partying.

Lowe tells Vanity Fair that in past days, he and Sheen "competed to see who could play harder, then show up for work."

Lowe recently finished his autobiography and shared excerpts with the magazine. He calls Sheen "a wonderful mix of nerd and rebel" and speaks of days when the two were relatively unknown actors who plotted their careers in Sheen's pool.

Sheen has made headlines for his wild partying. He was fired from his hit CBS TV comedy show, "Two and a Half Men," then alleged breach of contract and sued the show's producers.

The May issue of Vanity Fair will be on newsstands in New York and Los Angeles on Thursday and across the nation April 5.

Longoria wants to be voice for abused children

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (AP)—Eva Longoria says she wants to be the voice of thousands of silent children working in deplorable conditions around the world.

The "Desperate Housewives" star is the executive producer for "Harvest," a documentary that follows three migrant boys as they work 14-hour days in U.S. fields along the border with Mexico.

Longoria says she wants "to be the voice of these children no one listens to."

The 36-year-old actress attended the documentary's premiere at Mexico's Guadalajara International Film Festival on Saturday.

She says she has been an activist since long before being famous.

She says "I've been helping people since I was little."

AP

Eva Longoria attends a news conference at the Guadalajara International Film festival in Guadalajara, Mexico, Saturday March 26, 2011.

Helen Mirren makes impression in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Helen Mirren is still making an impression in Hollywood.

The Oscar winning actress sank her feet in wet cement outside Grauman's Chinese Theatre on Monday, joining a long list of celebrity hand and foot prints in the courtyard of the famed Hollywood tourist spot.

The ceremony comes less than two weeks before the release of her latest movie, "Arthur." She plays the nanny to the irresponsible billionaire played by Russell Brand.

Mirren won an Academy Award for her portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II in the 2006 film "The Queen."" She also got Oscar nominations for her roles in "The Madness of King George," ''Gosford Park" and "The Last Station."

Actress Helen Mirren writes her name after placing her hand and footprints in cement during a ceremony at Grauman's Chinese Theatre on Monday, March 28, 2011, in Los Angeles. AP

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Prince William, Kate to visit northern England

LONDON (AP)—Prince William and Kate Middleton will travel to northern England next month for an engagement, their last official trip before their April 29 wedding. Palace officials say Monday the couple will go to Lancashire on April 11 to open a community academy and launch an award for young people named after the prince. They will then visit nearby Witton Country Park, as part of William's role as patron of a scheme to protect outdoor recreational spaces. The couple have recently traveled to Anglesey in North Wales, visited their former university St. Andrews in Scotland and flown to Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Getty: Statue's future in hands of Italian court

LOS ANGELES (AP)—J. Paul Getty Museum officials say they told an Italian lawmaker they couldn't forge an agreement with him over a disputed bronze statue because its future is tied up in Italian courts. Getty spokesman Ron Hartwig said Monday he and two curators met Friday with Gian Mario Spacca and four others from a central Italian region. Spacca proposed an antiquities sharing agreement that would include the "Getty Bronze," also known as "Victorious Youth." Hartwig says they stopped the discussion before Spacca got to details on ownership. The bronze was not part of a 2007 pact in which Getty returned 40 looted or stolen items to Italy. Spacca plans a news conference in Los Angeles later Monday to present his plan.

Ken Burns' next project for PBS: Vietnam War

NEW YORK (AP)—Having already done the Civil War and World War II, Ken Burns is working on a documentary about the Vietnam War. PBS said the 10- to 12-hour film by Burns and longtime partner Lynn Novick will be broadcast in 2016. Burns said his film will tell the human stories of Americans and Vietnamese affected by the war, along with those of Americans who protested against it. He said that four decades after the war's end, most people have opinions about it but few truly know its history. PBS is rebroadcasting Burns' "The Civil War" next week to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the beginning of that conflict.

Lonely man ready to make music with bluegrass fan

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 21 years, and the past eight or 10 of them haven't been good. I have tried to get my wife to go camping, out to dinner or to bluegrass concerts we both love. I can't convince her to do any of these things with me. But when her sister calls wanting her to go somewhere, she's gone and stays out all day.

About two years ago I started going out alone to clubs that feature bluegrass music on Fridays and Saturdays. I met a wonderful lady at one of them and we have gotten close. I have told her I love her. We have a lot in common, and she cares for me, too. I have not been unfaithful to my wife (yet), but I don't know how much more I can handle. I am lonely and miserable.

Abby, I don't know what to do. Please advise before I do something stupid. I'm an avid reader of your column and I trust your advice.

TEMPTED DOWN SOUTH

DEAR TEMPTED: Marriage is like a garden. If it isn't tended and fertilized occasionally, it withers. It appears you and your wife stopped communicating not long after your 10th anniversary.

Sneaking around is not the answer to your problem. It's unfair to your wife and to the woman you say you love. So man up and offer your wife the option of intensive marriage counseling—if you want to save your marriage and your assets, that is. But do not pursue the extramarital relationship until and unless you are free to do so.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to a wonderful guy for four years, and I'm fortunate to have nice and caring in-laws. My only issue with them is the personal questions they ask—like how much money people make.

Abby, they know exactly how much their children make, as well as the amount of their son-in-law's salary. Once I'm out of graduate school and settled into my career, I know they will ask me.

I feel my finances are my personal business and no one else's—especially if my husband and I are living comfortably. How do I handle the situation when my in-laws ask me about my income? I don't want to be rude, but I think it's intrusive and too personal.

NOT QUOTINGR FIGURES

DEAR NOT QUOTING: Start now and tell your husband—if you haven't already—how you feel about questions about how much people earn. That way he'll be less inclined to "spill" when his parents start pumping him for the information. When they ask you, say that you are not comfortable with that question because you feel it is too personal. Smile when you say it, and remember you are not obligated to answer every question someone asks of you.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been estranged from our grandchildren for nine years. One of them is now 18 and we would like to reach out and contact her, but have no idea how to do it. We don't know what caused the estrangement with her parents, but we have never stopped loving our grandchildren. How do you contact someone who isn't in the phone book, is of age and across the country?

BONNEY JEAN IN HAWAII

DEAR BONNEY: You have written to me for so many years, I feel like I know you. My heart goes out to you in this—I'm sorry to say—not uncommon predicament. A way to locate your granddaughter would be to do it via a Google search. I wish you luck.

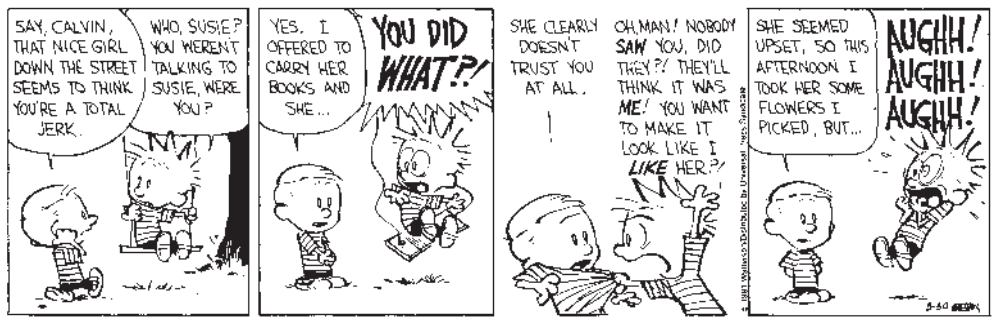
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


SAY, CALVIN, THAT NICE GIRL DOWN THE STREET SEEMS TO THINK YOU'RE A TOTAL JERK.
WHO, SUSIE? YOU WEREN'T TALKING TO SUSIE, WERE YOU?
YES. I OFFERED TO CARRY HER BOOKS AND SHE...
YOU DID WHAT?!
SHE CLEARLY DOESN'T TRUST YOU AT ALL.
OH, MAN! NOBODY SAW YOU, DID THEY?! THEY'LL THINK IT WAS ME! YOU WANT TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE I LIKE HER?!
SHE SEEMED UPSET, SO THIS AFTERNOON I TOOK HER SOME FLOWERS I PICKED, BUT...
AUGHH! AUGHH! AUGHH!

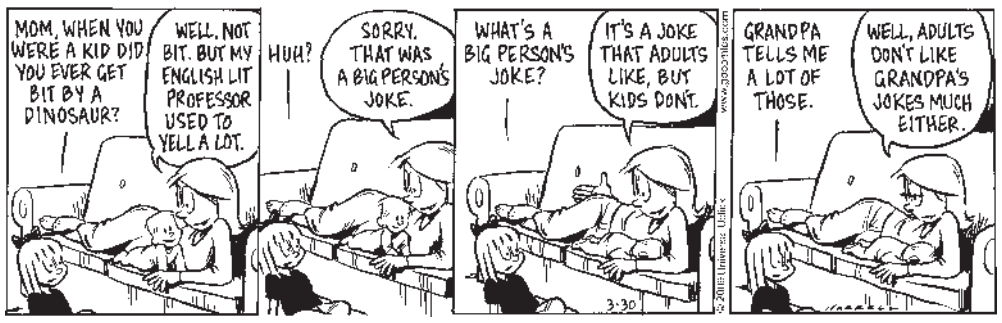
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I WON'T SAY JON IS A BAD HOUSEKEEPER...
AND I WON'T SAY THIS HOUSE IS DIRTY...
BUT I HAVE TO WIPE MY FEET BEFORE I GO OUTSIDE
JIM DAVIS 3-30

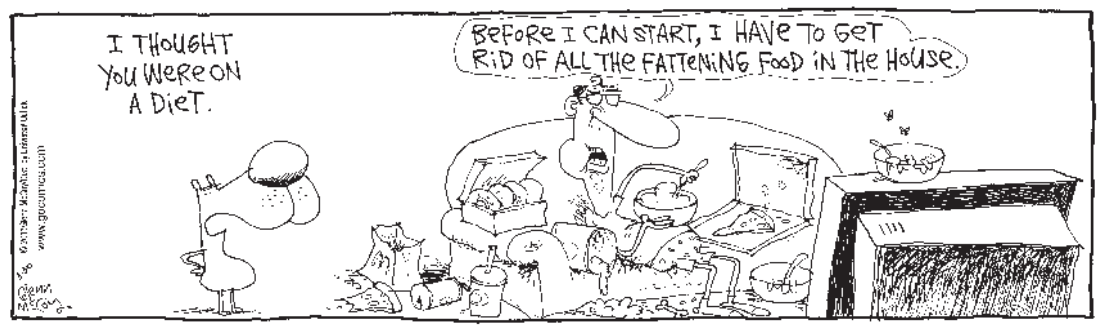
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MOM, WHEN YOU WERE A KID DID YOU EVER GET BIT BY A DINOSAUR?
WELL, NOT BIT. BUT MY ENGLISH LIT PROFESSOR USED TO YELL A LOT.
HUH?
SORRY. THAT WAS A BIG PERSON'S JOKE.
WHAT'S A BIG PERSON'S JOKE?
IT'S A JOKE THAT ADULTS LIKE, BUT KIDS DON'T.
GRANDPA TELLS ME A LOT OF THOSE.
WELL, ADULTS DON'T LIKE GRANDPA'S JOKES MUCH EITHER.
3:30

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

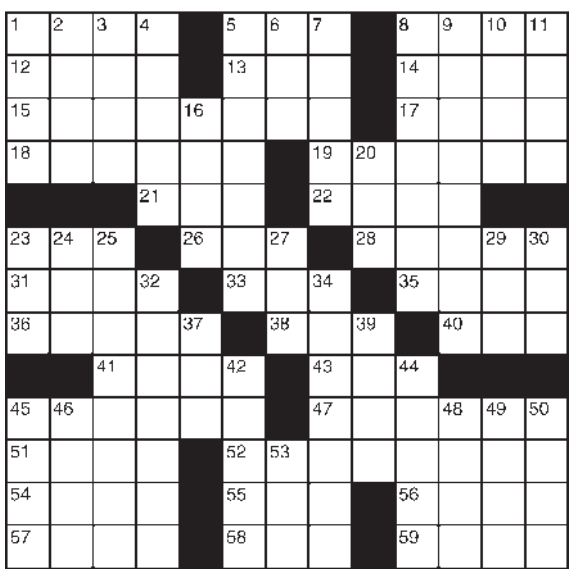
ACROSS
1 NYPD types
5 Scratch
8 Open somewhat
12 Oil cartel
13 Have bills
14 Diamond corner
15 Something one likes
17 Met melody
18 Classify
19 "The Taking of — 1 2 3"
21 D.C. figure
22 — gin fizz
23 English channel?
26 Jewel
28 Scoundrel
31 Wander
33 Fort —, N.J.
35 Tend texts
36 Sleep disorder
38 "Glee" actress Michele
40 Pouch
41 Commanded
43 Unburden
45 Carbolic acid
47 Pizza toppings
51 Parliamentary title
52 Sports page grid
54 Shrek, for one
55 Raw mineral
56 Director Kazan
57 Autocrat
58 Existed
59 Stalk

DOWN
1 Caesar co-star
2 Piece of work
3 Energizes, with "up"
4 Cone contents
5 Having blotches
6 Shock and —
7 Harvests
8 Ornamental shell
9 Marines (Sl.)
10 Largest of the seven
11 Paper quantity
16 Kermit, e.g.
20 Wapiti
23 Shape shifter?
24 Conk
25 Australia's capital
27 Wire measure
29 By way of
30 Listending abbr.
32 Gad about
34 Photocopies
37 Commotion
39 Has a bug
42 Knee counterpart
44 Cuts into cubes
45 Story line
46 Gluttons
48 Chevy hybrid
49 Great Lake
50 Fashion line?
53 — pro nobis

Solution time: 21 mins.

J	A	R	S	■	J	E	T	■	B	L	A	B
I	D	O	L	■	E	I	H	■	L	O	G	O
B	A	G	Y	B	L	U	E	■	U	S	E	D
E	R	E	■	A	L	I	■	N	E	E	D	Y
■	■	■	B	R	O	■	M	O	B	■	■	■
V	A	I	L	S	■	K	A	R	L	O	F	F
A	L	S	O	■	H	I	X	■	O	R	A	L
D	E	P	O	S	I	T	■	C	O	R	N	Y
■	■	■	D	O	G	■	C	O	D	■	■	■
G	A	B	B	Y	■	G	O	O	■	S	E	A
L	I	R	A	■	B	A	N	K	R	O	L	L
O	D	I	N	■	A	N	D	■	I	S	L	E
W	E	E	K	■	A	G	O	■	D	O	S	E

Yesterday's answer 3-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Norah Jones, 32; Celine Dion, 43; Eric Clapton, 66; Warren Beatty, 74

Happy Birthday: Get all your secrets out in the open so you can resolve issues that are holding you back. Put distance between you and the people, places and things to which you no longer relate. It's time to start anew. You can come up with the right combination and balance in both your personal and professional lives. Your numbers are 9, 13, 19, 24, 29, 35, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Grab hold of whatever situation is appealing and shows promise and you will excel. Connect with people who have similar interests. It's a time of give and take as well as added discipline to see matters through to completion. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Steer clear of anyone trying to convert or push you in a direction that's not right for you. Doubt is likely to arise when dealing with institutions, large corporations or government agencies. Do your own research. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You've got everything going for you, so don't look back, slow down or let anyone else take over. The connections you make now will lead to a long-lasting relationship. Use your imagination and you can improve your financial situation. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Keep your thoughts to yourself. Focus on getting your work done and avoiding a run-in that will lead to loss. Your emphasis should be on learning, patience and spending quality time with someone you love. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You've got the capability to achieve your goals, so don't allow your emotions to lead you astray. You don't have to buy your way into a group or pay for someone you want to impress. Use your head, your good ideas and your charm. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Someone will take advantage of you financially if you don't protect your assets and your ideas. A love interest may not be what you think. Back away from anyone who is overindulgent physically, emotionally or financially. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Present, promote and push whatever you have to offer. You will grab the interest of someone who wants to collaborate with you personally or professionally. Don't let self-doubt cause you to offer too much for too little. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let emotions get the better of you when you can turn what may appear to be a setback into an opportunity. Use your creativity to come up with an idea for a project that has the potential to bring in huge profits. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't get all worked up over nothing. If someone doesn't see things your way or want to take part in something you are doing, don't let it stop you from moving forward. Changes at home may appear to be negative but will ultimately benefit you. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Refrain from letting others see what you are planning. Opposition can be expected. Move forward on your own to avoid obstacles. Avoid travel, serious talks and dealing with anyone in a position to influence your future. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take on a new project or integrate something you are working on now with something you've done in the past. You can come up with a way to stabilize your financial situation. Take care of any pending settlement, legal or health matters. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Good fortune can be yours if you are active in your pursuits. Don't leave anything to chance or depend on others to get things done for you. You have plenty to gain if you direct your energy wisely. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are adaptable, curious and intuitive. You are impulsive and playful and strive to do your best.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2	3							
4		9						
	6		7		8			
		5		6		2		
			3			6	9	
		7						8
			8	4		3		7
				3				2
					1	4	6	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	9	3	8	4	6	7	1	5
7	8	4	1	5	9	6	3	2
6	1	5	3	2	7	8	9	4
3	5	1	2	7	8	9	4	6
9	4	7	6	3	1	5	2	8
8	6	2	5	9	4	1	7	3
4	3	6	9	1	5	2	8	7
1	7	8	4	6	2	3	5	9
5	2	9	7	8	3	4	6	1

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/29

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SPELLING RULES **Solution: 10 letters**

A	B	X	D	M	Y	N	O	N	Y	S	P	E	L	L
E	W	E	I	D	E	T	T	I	M	O	L	U	I	E
D	L	H	G	F	C	T	I	D	S	P	A	L	N	C
E	R	G	C	I	F	G	N	S	M	G	C	C	O	N
V	E	O	N	S	N	U	E	I	O	R	E	N	I	E
I	A	N	P	I	O	S	S	S	Y	A	A	H	T	T
R	D	A	D	P	S	G	Y	R	R	M	O	Y	A	N
E	O	D	M	I	N	L	A	S	E	M	S	W	Z	E
D	A	O	V	I	L	L	E	N	O	A	O	(N)	I	S
S	C	E	T	A	U	X	E	N	T	R	F	(O)	R	L
L	I	I	B	B	I	D	Y	T	D	O	T	(U)	O	A
E	R	L	A	F	O	M	N	S	T	I	N	(N)	M	R
W	E	C	E	C	T	L	I	U	B	E	N	Y	E	U
O	O	R	E	N	E	L	B	U	O	D	R	G	M	L
V	P	D	A	C	T	I	O	N	E	S	A	R	H	P

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Action, Adding, Antonym, Begins, Built, Clue, Compound, Decode, Derived, Double, Drop, Ending, Grammar, Homonym, Letter, Memorization, Name, Noun, Omitted, Phrase, Place, Plural, Possessive, Prefixes, Read, Root, Schwa, Sentence, Silent, Simple, Single, Soft, Sound, Spell, Suffix, Syllable, Synonym, Vocabulary, Vowels, Words, Writing

Yesterday's Answer: Instrument

SALE! Thousands of Wonderword puzzles appear in your local newspaper, but you can't officially register and play or compete for prizes. Wonderword Pro, Inc. is the only place to get the official puzzle by Universal Uclick. For the 30 puzzles for the full box order, $1.95* for each additional book. Send to Wonderword 1-30 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64105 or call toll free, 1-800-426-6450.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nigh-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nigh-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for water truck, 3k to 3.5k gals/cap. Must be in good cond. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317 look for Jeremy or Norma

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars. Good condition. 2000 yr. & up. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

FOR RENT/LEASE

House for rent/lease. As Lito, 4BR, 2 1/2 bth, unfurnished. For more info. pls. call 788-7109 after 5pm

WHATZIT Solution: Cross swords

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For lawnmower small engine
Please call 233-5641
Open: 7 Day a Week • 9:00 AM-8:00 PM

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

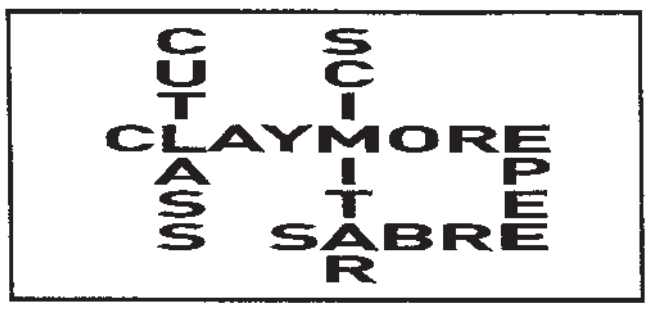
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in this section

Former girlfriend Bell tells of Bonds' steroid use

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Kimberly Bell, her voice cracking, looked out at the court room and talked about the final stretch of her nine-year relationship with Barry Bonds.

The greatest hitter of his era threatened "to cut my head off and leave me in a ditch," she said. "More than once."

She said Bonds told her "he would cut out my breast implants because he paid for them."

As for the Arizona house he had helped pay for, "he told me he would burn it down."

Bonds' federal trial resumed Monday with nearly daylong testimony from his former mistress, who said the slugger attributed a 1999 elbow injury to steroids use. She also discussed how Bonds became verbally abusive and said that his physique changed, offering a lurid description of his shrinking testicles, back acne, scalp hair that fell out and chest hair that turned gray. Such mental and physical symptoms are associated with steroid use.

Prosecutors allege Bonds lied when he told a federal grand jury in 2003 that he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs.

Bell met Bonds in 1994 and testified that from 1999 to 2001, "he was just increasingly aggressive, irritable, agitated, very impatient."

In testimony similar to that of former Bonds business partner Steve Hoskins last week, she said that in at least two different years at spring training, she saw Bonds and personal trainer Greg Anderson "go into a bedroom off the kitchen and close and lock the door."

She said Anderson "would always have a little satchel with him." She saw those scenes played out multiple times.

Prosecutors claim Anderson, who has been jailed for refusing to testify, repeatedly injected Bonds with performance-enhancing drugs.

Dressed in a gray pantsuit and white shirt, and with deep lines under her eyes, Bell answered 72 minutes of prosecution questions and was pressured during 4 hours, 15 minutes of questioning from the defense, who tried to portray her as a gold digger, a scorned former lover, a liar and the instigator of a mortgage fraud scheme.

Defense lawyer Cristina Arguedas brought up an interview Bell gave Playboy and a television appearance on Geraldo Rivera.

"You have taken many opportunities to disparage Barry Bonds ... in the most vulgar ways possible?" Arguedas said in a question that was more a statement.

"Did you go on Howard Stern's radio show?" Arguedas continued. "Does he do anything that isn't vulgar?"

When Arguedas repeated: "Did you say vulgar things about Barry Bonds?" Bell answered: "Please refresh my memory."

With that, Arguedas took a break to talk with Allen Ruby, Bonds' lead lawyer. After a few moments, Arguedas told the court: "We're going to decline that opportunity to go into the gutter. No more questions."

At the start of the day, Giants equipment manager Mike Murphy testified that Bonds' hat size increased from 7 1/4 to 7 3-8 in 2002. Murphy said that while Willie Mays and Willie McCovey needed larger hats, their increases did not happen until after they had retired as players.

Barry Bonds' former mistress, Kimberly Bell, leaves a federal courthouse after she testified in Bonds' perjury trial, Monday, March 28, 2011, in San Francisco.

AP

Former Giants head athletic trainer Stan Conte is to testify Tuesday along with former AL MVP Jason Giambi, brother Jeremy Giambi and Randy Velarde, other players linked to the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, which ran a steroids distribution ring.

While there were empty seats in the court room last week, the wood benches were filled for Bell's testimony and about a dozen people waited on line outside for one of the approximately 50 seats available to the public.

Bell testified Bonds revealed his steroids use to her only once, between 1999 and 2000 at her apartment.

"He had an injury on his elbow and it was a big lump on his elbow," she said. "It looked really awful, and he said it was because of steroids. ... somehow it caused the muscle and the tendons to grow faster than the joint itself could handle."

Bonds had left elbow surgery on April 20, 1999, and was on the disabled list until June 9. He holds the MLB records for home runs in a career (762) and a single season (73).

Under questioning from Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey D. Nedrow, Bell said Bonds told her "he didn't shoot it up every day like body builders did."

"That's how they were getting ahead, that's how they were achieving, by using steroids," she quoted Bonds as saying. She went on to say this was the period "when Mark McGwire was breaking records."

Dressed in a dark blue suit, light blue shirt and blue-and-silver patterned tie, Bonds alternately watched Bell on the stand, scribbled notes and whispered to one of his defense attorneys, Allen Ruby. A few times, Bonds put on reading glasses.

Bell met Bonds briefly outside Candlestick Park on July 3, 1994, when she was introduced by Kathy Hoskins, a former personal shopper for Bonds who also is expected to testify.

"He said: 'Damn girl, you're fine,'" said Bell, who occasionally dabbed at tears.

She attended a barbecue the next day at Bonds' mother's house, and Bonds arrived with Bobby Bonilla. From there, they shared a romantic relationship that continued even after Bonds married Liz Watson, who became his second wife in 1999.

In anticipation of defense attempts to discredit Bell, Nedrow asked about an interview and nude photograph shoot she did with Playboy that appeared in 2007.

"I was trying to put my life together," she testified. "Maybe it wasn't the best decision."

Bell testified that Playboy agreed to pay her $100,000, but sent the money to her agent, David Hans Schmidt. Schmidt committed suicide in 2007 while under investigation for allegedly attempting to extort the actor Tom Cruise and Bell said she saw little of the Playboy payment—"about $17,000 or $18,000."

While Ruby cross-examined the first four witnesses, Arguedas spent most of Monday trying to portray Bell as a jilted woman who had broken off her previous relationship on the day she was to be married.

When Bonds told her in 1998 that he was going to marry Watson, Bell said the player told her "you can come see me on road trips." Bell testified that after Bonds married, he told her there were "girlfriend cities and wife cities" and that she wasn't allowed to travel with him to New York, Montreal and Atlanta.

Bell said she went instead to San Diego, Houston and Miami. She recalled bitterly how Bonds told her to find her own way home from after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, when commercial airlines were shut down and Bonds was on the team charter.

"Barry abandoned me in Houston after 9-11," she said.

Arguedas ran through a litany of financial benefits Bell received in "this position you had, as the girlfriend for road trips." Bonds bought her several cars and paid the down payment for her house in North Scottsdale, Ariz. Arguedas repeatedly brought up forms Bell signed in which she said it would be her secondary home, trying to portray Bell as a liar.

Arguedas also quizzed Bell about an e-mail she sent to Bonds' website in April 2004, almost a year after their breakup on May 23, 2003. Bell said she listed all the women she knew that Bonds was sleeping with: a model in New York, another woman in Las Vegas and "the stripper from Phoenix."

"This is the guy who you described as having penile dysfunction," Arguedas said. "That's a lot of action."

Bonds covered his mouth in an apparent attempt to suppress a grin.

"I don't know what he was doing with them," Bell responded. "I can only imagine."

NFL players: Lockout causing 'irreparable harm'

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—NFL players are defending their decision to disband the union, saying employers cannot force workers to unionize, and dissolution is "not akin to turning off a light switch."

The players made the statements Monday in a court document filed in response to the NFL's assertion decertification was "a sham."

"It is established law that a union can renounce collective bargaining to enable its workers to protect themselves from antitrust violations," lawyers for the players wrote in the filing.

Lawyers for Tom Brady, Peyton Manning, Drew Brees and six other NFL players are asking a federal judge to halt a lockout imposed by owners, saying an injunction is needed to "stop the irreparable harm being inflicted today." A hearing on the issue is scheduled for April 6 in St. Paul, Minn.

The players say that prior court decisions have made it clear the right of workers not to unionize is absolute. The players disclaimed their union, gave up the right to strike, to collectively bargain and to have union representation.

"The players sacrificed these labor law rights for one reason: to gain the ability to assert antitrust claims against anticompetitive restrictions imposed by defendants," lawyers for the players argued on Monday.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said, "There are no surprises or arguments we did not expect. The union's lawyers still fail to come to terms with the jurisdictional principles that bar an injunction in this case."

Last week, the NFL wrote in response to the lawsuit to ask that the lockout be kept in place, accusing the players of trying to manipulate the law with what the league deems a baseless antitrust claim. The NFL also argues that any legal decision on the lockout should wait until the National Labor Relations Board rules on an unfair labor practice charge against the now-dissolved players' union.

The players argued that the NLRB proceedings could take years, thus there is no basis for the court to wait to tackle the issue.

The "claim that it was bad faith for the NFLPA to renounce its union status is absurd," the court document said. It added that the NFLPA was re-formed as a union because of a court settlement, and that it existed as a union for nearly 20 years, "with renunciation occurring only after two years of fruitless collective bargaining."

U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson is scheduled to hear arguments on the injunction next week.

The current players say they can't afford to wait for the NLRB to conclude its investigation and issue a ruling. The lockout has shutdown free agency, prevented player movement and kept players from working out at team facilities.

"Players are suffering irreparable harm now, before games are lost ... Absent immediate injunctive relief, it will be impossible to turn back the clock or quantify in damages these lost opportunities," the filing said.

A group of retired players filed their own lawsuit as well on Monday, seeking to gain class-action status with the current players against the NFL. Hall of Famer Carl Eller, three-time All-Pro Priest Holmes and two other ex-players want the lockout lifted to ensure their pensions and health benefits remain funded.

According to the lawsuit, those benefits can end if a collective bargaining agreement is not renewed by next March 11—a year after the last one expired.

Anthony scores 39, Knicks top Magic in OT

NEW YORK (AP)—Carmelo Anthony scored 39 points, his best effort since coming to New York, and the Knicks pulled out a 113-106 overtime victory over the Orlando Magic on Monday night to snap a six-game losing streak.

Hours after saying the game was "almost a must win" for the Knicks, Anthony added 10 rebounds, and the Knicks got some help when Dwight Howard fouled out in the extra session, then picked up his NBA-leading 17th technical foul.

Amare Stoudemire had 20 points for the Knicks, who won for just the second time in 11 games and inched closer to their first playoff berth since 2004.

Howard rebounded from a quiet first half to finish with 29 points and 18 rebounds, but Orlando didn't score after he picked up his sixth foul going for a rebound with 1:17 remaining in a two-point game.

Jason Richardson made the tying 3-pointer in regulation and scored 24 for the Magic, who had a five-game winning streak snapped and lost for only the third time in 16 games against the Knicks. Hedo Turkoglu scored 18 points, but he also fouled out, leaving the Magic furious with the officiating down the stretch.

Chauncey Billups made the go-ahead 3-pointer with 3:16 left in overtime, then Anthony was alone after an Orlando miss for a dunk and a 108-104 lead with 2:46 remaining. Howard cut it to two by tipping in his own miss, but he was whistled for No. 6 when Billups went down as Howard tried to grab another offensive board.

Howard then was hit with the tech for tossing the ball into the backcourt, moving him one away from another one-game suspension, and Billups made the free throw for a three-point lead. The Magic then got another bad break when Richardson was called for an offensive foul away from the ball on Anthony after they became tangled, negating what would have been a tying 3-point basket by Turkoglu.

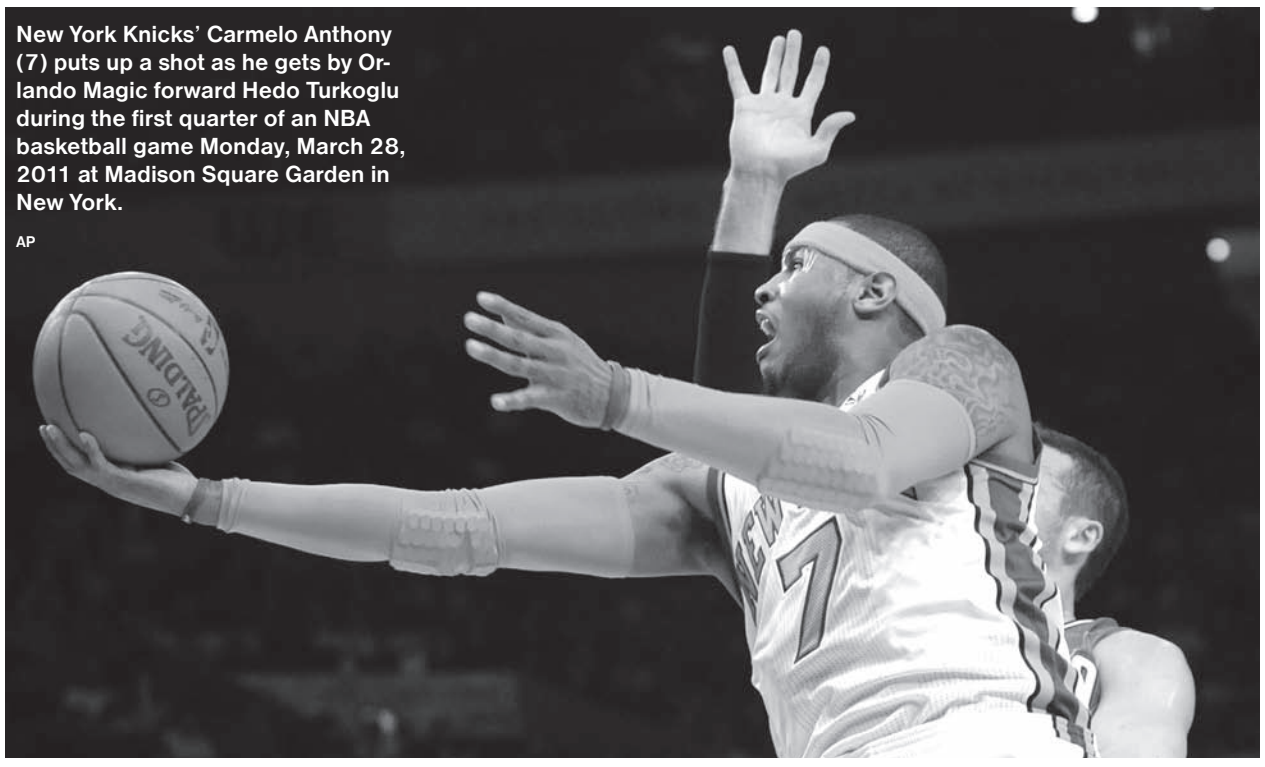
The Knicks finished it off at the line as the Magic players on the bench yelled their frustration toward the referees and fans.

Billups scored 17 and Toney Douglas had 16 for the Knicks, who shook things up Monday by holding their first morning shootaround at home this season. It was there that Anthony said the game was "almost a must win."

They did by finally beating the Magic in a game that was postponed Nov. 2, after debris fell into the arena during an overnight cleaning of asbestos-related materials.

Anthony made another with a hand in his face for a 96-90 lead with 2:03 to play in regulation. The Magic closed to 98-97 on a 3-pointer by Gilbert Arenas with 32 seconds remaining, but Anthony drove and found Douglas along the baseline, and his short jumper counted when Howard was called for goaltending with 10.2 seconds left.

Richardson nailed a 3 to tie it at 100 with 5.7 to go—aided by defender Jared Jeffries not even putting his hands up to contest—and Anthony was just short trying to follow his own miss, sending it to overtime.



New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony (7) puts up a shot as he gets by Orlando Magic forward Hedo Turkoglu during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 28, 2011 at Madison Square Garden in New York.

AP

76ers 97, Bulls 85

At Chicago, Thaddeus Young scored 21 points as Philadelphia built a 23-point lead and held on to beat Chicago and end a 14-game home winning streak.

Chicago, losing for only the second time in its last 14 games overall, got 31 points from Derrick Rose, who also had 10 turnovers. The Bulls still own the best record in the East, leading by two games over the Celtics and Heat. Boston lost to Indiana on Monday night and Miami was idle.

Andre Iguodala added 19 points and seven assists for the 76ers.

Carlos Boozer scored 15 points for the Bulls, and Joakim Noah had 10 points and 13 rebounds.

Bobcats 87, Bucks 86

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Gerald Henderson scored the final seven points, including the go-ahead jumper with 22 seconds left, as Charlotte staged an unlikely comeback to beat the mistake-prone Milwaukee.

Starting with no available centers before losing their top two point guards to injuries, the Bobcats remained in playoff contention after Brandon Jennings missed two layups and a 3-pointer in the final 15 seconds that would have put the Bucks ahead.

Stephen Jackson scored 18 points for the Bobcats, who held Milwaukee scoreless over the final 3:52.

Jennings and Andrew Bogut had 26 points apiece for the Bucks.

Pacers 107, Celtics 100

At Indianapolis, Roy Hibbert scored 26 points as Indiana beat Boston to remain in sole possession of eighth place in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Boston point guard Rajon Rondo started after missing Sunday's game against Minnesota with a jammed finger on his right hand. Coach Doc Rivers said before the game that Rondo would not play, but Rondo scored 10 points in the first 5:10 and finished with 22 points and eight assists.

Paul Pierce led Boston with 23 points, and Glen Davis added 20 for the Celtics, who are fading in their quest to catch Chicago for the best record in the East.

Trail Blazers 100, Spurs 92

At San Antonio, Andre Miller scored 26 points as Portland beat San Antonio whiles Tony Parker, Manu Ginobili and Tim Duncan sat out with injuries.

The Blazers beat the NBA's most successful team for the second time in three days, this time with four San Antonio starters sidelined. Gerald Wallace added 14 points for Portland and hit a crucial 3-pointer with 2:02 left, finishing a quick 7-0 burst that put the Blazers ahead.

George Hill had 27 points for the Spurs, who have lost four in row, their longest slide this season.

Wizards 100, Jazz 95, OT

At Salt Lake City, rookie John Wall scored 28 points, and Jordan Crawford hit a key shot at the end of regulation and then made two steals in overtime to lead Washington to only its second road win.

Crawford finished with 25 points, including eight in the fourth quarter and the tying shot with 4.4 seconds left in regulation. Maurice Evans scored seven of his 12 points in overtime for the Wizards, who were without five players because of injury.

C.J. Miles led the Jazz with 17 points but he made only 3 of 12 from 3-point range.

LeBron: 2nd trip to Cleveland can't get any worse

CLEVELAND (AP)—Trapped in an arena where venom and disgust filled nearly all 20,000 seats, LeBron James survived. He handled the boos, the "Akron hates you" chants, the obscene taunts coming at him from every direction, from fans he considered family.

At his homecoming, James was an outcast.

He's returning on Tuesday, and nearly four months since his last visit, the Miami superstar isn't expecting as much outward hostility.

"Can't get no worse than it was December 2nd," James said. "I know that for a fact."

The hype and the hate aren't as high this time.

Things have changed dramatically since James last played in Cleveland, the city he spurned last summer as a free agent. Back in December, the Cavaliers were 7-10 and their fans were still frothing at the first chance to publicly vilify James for leaving them before delivering an NBA title.

They vented. He vanquished.

James scored 38 points—24 in the third quarter—and powered the Heat to a 118-90 win, a blowout that triggered a downward plunge by the Cavaliers that hasn't stopped. At 14-58, they have the league's worst record and they'll watch the playoffs this season for the first time in six years.

On the other hand, Miami's win bonded the Heat, who are 41-14 since their Cleveland stopover and building for a title run.

"That was a huge step for us," James said. "After that game, we took off."

Security inside Quicken Loans Arena will again be at finals levels for James' return. There will uniformed police located near Miami's bench area and plain clothes officers will be spread throughout the stands to guard against any trouble.

For all the worry of an ugly incident leading up to the Dec. 2 matchup, there was only one arrest and a handful of ejections.

"We'll have a similar approach to this game and continue to have a very focused plan in place for the security and safety of everyone in the Q," said Cavaliers spokesman Tad Carper.

James was excited about going home again. Unlike Miami's last visit, which came one night after the Heat played in Detroit, James came in one day early, giving him enough time to see his two sons and visit with family and friends in his hometown of Akron.

"That'll be good," he said.

It might get a little tougher for him after that, but Cleveland coach Byron Scott doesn't anticipate the atmosphere to be as charged or for James and the Heat to be received as rudely.

"I don't think it's going to be quite that crazy," he said. "I don't think it's going to be a zoo like it was last time. It might be two notches below what it was. It's still going to be a very intense type game. I think fans remember what happened last time we played here and so do we."

The Cavaliers were subjected to a double dose of humiliation in December.

On top of being pummeled by James last time, they were criticized by their fans for treating him like he was still in the family.

Forward Anderson Varejao, currently sidelined with an ankle injury, was ripped for hugging James before the opening tip and there was outrage that none of the Cavaliers fouled James hard or stood up to him when he started trash talking their bench.

Scott was disappointed in his team's behavior. He's confident James won't be embraced again.

"I know it'll be different," he said. "The next time we played them in Miami was different and the next time we played them, we hung in there for a little while, then they got a run in the fourth quarter and blew the game wide open. Both of those games were much more physical, much more aggressive and much tighter.

Scott has noticed a change in the psyche of Cleveland fans. When he first arrived, he sensed their disappointment in James for abandoning them, and hardly a day passed without him being told that the only thing that mattered this season was "to beat Miami."

Cavaliers fans seem to have moved on.

"I can't remember the last time somebody said something about LeBron to me," he said at practice on Monday. "I think even the fans have come to the realization that, hey, it's the Miami Heat and that's the way it is."

Except for their wine-and-gold uniforms, James may not recognize his former team.

Varejao and forward Antawn Jamison are both out for the season and the Cavaliers traded Mo Williams, Jamario Moon and released Leon Powe since December. There are only three healthy players—Daniel Gibson, J.J. Hickson and Anthony Parker—who played with James.

One of the new additions, point guard Baron Davis, who came over in a February trade, promised the Cavaliers will treat James' visit seriously.

"We're not going to be laughing and joking," said Davis, who added he has a good relationship with James. "Ain't going to be a lot of smiles."

The Heat are prepared for whatever comes their way.

They've been booed and subjected to ridicule in every arena this season, a byproduct of the public's backlash against James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh for banding together to build a dynasty in South Florida. There isn't anything they haven't seen or heard.

At this point, nothing's too hot for the Heat.

"We're expecting shenanigans," Bosh said. "Usually after the first time, the tension kind of goes away. I've been noticing that the second time we go to other road arenas, it's not as intense as the first time."

Bosh recalled that leading up to Miami's first visit that he couldn't flip on the TV without seeing a special about James being back in Cleveland.

"They had it on every channel," he said. "But it's a little bit different this time. It's all business. But it'll be interesting to see how it is, though."

Delta donates plane tickets to NMC Foundation Open

Delta Air Lines has donated two business class tickets valued at over $11,000 as a hole-in-one prize for the upcoming 9th Annual Northern Marianas College Foundation Open golf tournament.

The winner of the tickets may use them for business class travel between Saipan and any U.S. city served by Delta Air Lines including New York City or Boston.

"Delta Air Lines is a strong supporter of the NMC Foundation's efforts," said Chris Concepcion of Delta Air Lines sales and marketing. "The company is happy to be a part of the upcoming golf tournament which benefits higher education."

The tournament, the Foundation's signature event, aims to raise critical funds to support NMC's academic programs and services.

"We would like to thank Delta Air Lines for its sponsorship," said Ben Babauta, president of the NMC Foundation. "The hole in one prize is sure to entice players to join the tournament."

The NMC Foundation is a non-profit organization composed of community volunteers committed to elevating higher education opportunities for students in the CNMI by raising funds to support the Northern Marianas College, the CNMI's only post secondary educational institution.

The tournament will be held at Laolao Bay Golf Resort on April 30 with a shotgun start at 7am and will follow a medal play format. There will be six separate flight categories: Championship, A, B, C, seniors, and ladies. The entrance fee is $95 per player.

Those interested are invited to bring their family, friends, and playing partners for a fantastic day of fun and fundraising for a good cause.

For information on how to donate to the NMC Foundation or to register to play, log on to www.nmcnet.edu or call 234-5498 ext. 1050. Registration forms can be downloaded or picked up at the NMC Cashier's Office, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, or Triple J Motors. ***(PR)***

ENAMO

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Natibu knocked off Braddahs, 22-10, in five.

Phat Boyz improved its streak to seven in a row, while Natibu notched its eighth win. Red Eye's record fell to 3-5 and Braddahs endured its sixth loss in seven games.

Enamo Meta overcame a 4-6 deficit in the sixth inning and forced a couple of overtime frames. They later pulled off a three-run rally in the eighth inning and held on for the win.

Enamo currently holds a 5-1, just a win behind its rival Sakudi.

The Chamolinian Softball Association-organized competition continued on Capital Hill last night with a men's triple feature beginning at 6:30pm when Calikano-Groupers (3-5) took on Natibu, followed by Braddahs against Salty's (5-2) at 7:30pm. Then at 8:30pm Laolao Bay (1-5) challenged V-Power (4-2).

Enamo Meta 9, Sakudi 6

Sakudi took an early 2-0 lead right out of the gate off an RBI single by Bert Camacho and a sacrifice fly by Lillian Aguon.

Enamo Meta got a run back later in the top of the second off an RBI base rip by Ann Juliet Lifoifoi.

Enamo then went ahead, 4-2, in the top of the third off four hits and an error; Lou Lieto grounded in a run, and teammates Beatrice Kaainoa and Kinzie Arriola belted RBI singles.

Sakudi then reclaimed the lead, 5-4, in the bottom frame. They loaded the bases right away and that set up a two-RBI base knock by Rachel Salalila, followed a strikeout later by an RBI triple from Liz Lebria.

Enamo threatened again, but left the bases loaded at the start of the fourth and Sakudi added a run to its lead in the bottom half off a fielder's choice.

Both teams came up empty in the fifth and Enamo Meta tied the game at 6-all at the start of the sixth inning. The first three batters reached on hits and the runs came off a couple of fielder's choices that followed.

Sakudi got stuffed in the bottom frame and after a scoreless final inning, Enamo broke ahead, 9-6, in the top of the eighth off four hits and an error; Kaainoa and Hermina Kelley roared back on a couple RBI singles in the clutch.

Sakudi left runners on the corners in its final stand. The victory was a joint effort by Enamo Meta, which out-hit Sakudi, 17-10. Sakudi's leadoff batter, Rachel Salalila, batted 3-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs in the loss.

Natibu 21, Braddahs 10

Visiting Natibu came out swinging at the start of the opening frame with four runs off a two-run homerun by J.R. Suel, an RBI single by Jerome Delos Santos, and an error.

Braddahs, however, answered with a handful of runs off five hits, an error, and a sacrifice fly by Nunu Kapileo. After the first run scored off errors and an out later, Jose Iguel hit an RBI single. Then two hits later John Iguel smashed a two-RBI base knock.

Natibu then jumped ahead, 11-5, in the top of the second by quickly loading the bases, which set up an RBI single by Nokki Saralu followed by a grand slam by J.D. Dikito. The last run came off a pair of hits and a walk soon after.

Braddahs came up empty in the bottom frame and Natibu added six runs in the top half of the third.

Jun Saralu, and Dave Kapileo led off with solo shots, followed up a hit and an out later by a two-run bomb by Nokki Saralu; the last two runs came off a pair of hits and a double by Suel; Braddahs got stuffed 1-2-3 in the bottom frame.

Natibu then went ahead, 19-5, in the top of the fourth off an RBI double by Tony Luzama and an error.

Braddahs managed five runs in the bottom frame off a three-run homer by John Iguel, an RBI single by Shane Iguel, and an error, but came up empty in its final stand after Natibu padded its lead with three more runs.

Five balls left the yard for Natibu out of 21 hits, which accounted for 10 of its runs.

Phat Boyz 21, Red Eye 5

Phat Boyz took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning off a sacrifice fly by Toi Celis and a two-run homer by Byron Kaipat.

Red Eye later pulled within a run, 2-3, in the bottom of the second off a hit, an error, and an RBI double by Noki Torres.

Phat Boyz then went ahead, 7-2, in the top of the third off a walk, four hits, and another sacrifice fly by Celis. Jess Iguel, Byron Kaipat, and Craig Sanchez each belted RBI singles.

Red Eye managed a run off an RBI base rip by Zack Dela Cruz in the bottom frame.

After a scoreless fourth, Phat Boyz shot ahead, 12-3, in the top of the fifth with a five-run string with two outs.

Byron Kaipat hammered a solo shot, and two hits later, Sanchez singled in a run, while teammates Joe Tudela and Scott Sablan followed suit with RBI base rips; Sablan cleared the bases and drove home two.

Red Eye managed two runs in the bottom frame off a two-run blast by Dave Camacho, but Phat Boyz piled on nine more runs in the sixth inning off a pair of homers, a pair of doubles, five hits, and a walk before holding on for the win.

Phat Boyz's Byron Kaipat swung 4-for-4 with three homeruns for six RBIs and another run. Teammate Scott Sablan batted 3-for-3 with a homerun and five RBIs.

10 TEAMS

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and Omori will play their last game against the duo of Lucelle Lampera and Marylyn Montano this Sunday, while Bartolome and Peraja will take on Emily Vargas and June Padua this Friday. In case the two leading teams win their last match and they still tie for the No. 1 spot after the elimination, the squad with the most sets won will occupy the top ranking in the women's A doubles playoffs.

Only the Top 4 teams will advance to the playoffs and the duo of Hannai Choi and Toshiko Obata gained one of the last two spots with their 4-2 slate. Choi and Obata will duel Lampera and Montano in their last assignment in the elimination round this Friday.

Lampera and Montano has the best chance to claim the last playoff seat as they hold a 3-1 slate and have three games left.

Angie Ito and Gigi Zapanta are also in the running despite their 1-3 card if they will sweep their remaining three games and hope Lampera and Montano will not move up to four wins. Loida Ito and Shirley Kim (1-4), Malou Malasarte and Annette Ta (1-4), and Padua and Vargas (0-4) will need a major recovery to at least force a tie for the last playoffs slot.

In the women's B division, the two playoffs seats in Group 1 were already taken with the tandem of So Young Lee and Heo In Souk winning the No. 1 spot with their clean 4-0 record. Cristy Villaflor and Gigi Zapanta gained the other playoffs ticket after completing the pool play with a 3-1 card.

In Group 2, only Montano and Jaja Samonte are assured of a slot to the next round after finishing the elimination round with a 3-1 slate. Shirley Kim and Merlie Tolentino hold a 2-1 record and a win over Padua and Vargas will give them the second and last playoff seat. A loss will force a three-way tie and keep the playoffs hopes of Lea Swaim and partner and Toshiko Obata and Lee Chong Soo's alive.

In the women's C doubles, the playoffs cast was already completed with Jen Savellano and Ika Vargas and Windy Fernandez and Cris Obaldo notching the two tickets in Group 1. Savellano and Vargas swept the elimination round for an immaculate 5-0 record, while Obaldo and Fernandez ended up with a 4-1 slate.

In Group 2, Hwang Meong and Angela Park are assured of entry to the next round, as they also logged a perfect 5-0 slate in the elimination round. Joining them in the crossover playoffs are Cecille Obaldo and Hazel Dela Santa, who finished pool play with a 4-1 card.

THIRD

From Page 28

victory this month alone. In the 2011 XTERRA Saipan, the Pacific Islands Club employee joined forces with swimmer Kento Akimaru of Sapan Swim Club and runner Mamiko Oshima-Berger and together they topped the seven-team field after clocking in at 3:41:55 in the 1.5-km swim, 30-km mountain bike race, and 12-km run.

Then the following week, Carey teamed up with Oshima-Berger anew and another SSC swimmer—Victoria Chentsova—to win the 2011 Tagaman Triathlon with the relay's best time of 3:26:12.

Also winning in the Guam tournament was Butch Sublemente, who reigned in the 35 to 39 age groups, besting five other participants after completing the race in 3:04:04. Sublemente clocked in at 23:01 (49th) in the swim split, 1:47:32 (sixth overall) in the bike race, and 53:31 (sixth) in the run.

It was Sublemente's second age group win, as he also ruled the 35 to 39 division in the 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship after timing in at 3:32:21. In the 2011 Tagaman Triathlon, he joined the pro division and made it to the Top 10, but was the No. 1 Saipan male finisher in the road race after submitting 3:51:24.

Duplicating Sublemente's XTERRA Guam victory was Brian Morris, who ruled the 25 to 29 age group against eight other participants. Morris, who also won in XTERRA Saipan, logged 3:07:53 to beat Guam's Tobias Perez-Theisen (3:28:39) and John Kelly (3:32:46).

FRANK

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cash prizes during the awards presentation led by Ben Babauta, one of the organizers of the fundraiser. Sablan and Wabol each pocketed $100, while Cataluna went home with $150.

Of the Top 10 finishers, Manny Alvarez received the biggest cash prize at $300. Cash prizes were already determined even before the tournament started and the biggest pot was placed at the No. 5 spot, which Alvarez occupied.

Alvarez got off to a good start with his 3-over par 39 in the first nine holes, but the 14.4 handicapper faltered in the last nine with his 47 and net 71.6 to drop to fifth place behind Ray San Nicolas. The 9.6-handicapper San Nicolas started with a 41 on the front nine and improved his game a bit on the back nine with a 40 for a net 81 and gross 71.4.

Rounding out the Top 10 were Martin Sablan (net 72), Tars Olopai (72), Leo Ganacias (72.2), Greg Sablan (72.2), and Mariano Fajardo (72.4). Martin Sablan won $200, Olopai and Ganacias had $150 each, and Fajardo and Greg Sablan earned $100 apiece.

In the hole-in-one contest on No. 12, Alvarez was four inches away from the cup, missing the Harley Davison motorcycle at stake in the par-3 hole. No one also won the $5,000 hole-in-one prize on the par-3 No. 8 hole.

Meanwhile, organizers would like to thank the following for supporting the tournament: Kautz Glass Company, Kristo Rai Church, Rota Merchandising Co./D.K. Brothers Co. Inc, Saipan Health Clinic/St. Jude Renal Care, YCO Corporation, Songao Enterprises, Henry K. Pangelinan & Associates, HBR International, Inc., Santa Soledad Parish, Good Day Coordinating, Inc., Motion Auto/Ace Auto Glass, Mt. Carmel Cathedral Parish, San Antonio Parish, San Vicente Parish, Santa Remedios Parish, Mt. Carmel Catholic School, San Francisco De Borja Parish, Bank of Guam, D'Elegance Café, K.L. Carr Enterprises, Pacific Trading Co., and Ta Bun Kuy.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	51	22	.699	—
Philadelphia	38	36	.514	13 1/2
New York	36	38	.486	15 1/2
New Jersey	23	49	.319	27 1/2
Toronto	20	53	.274	31

Southeast Division

x-Miami	51	22	.699	—
x-Orlando	47	27	.635	4 1/2
x-Atlanta	42	32	.568	9 1/2
Charlotte	31	42	.425	20
Washington	18	55	.247	33

Central Division

y-Chicago	53	20	.726	—
Indiana	33	42	.440	21
Milwaukee	29	44	.397	24
Detroit	26	47	.356	27
Cleveland	14	58	.194	38 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	57	17	.770	—
x-Dallas	52	21	.712	4 1/2
New Orleans	42	32	.568	15
Memphis	41	33	.554	16
Houston	38	35	.521	18 1/2

Northwest Division

x-Oklahoma City	48	24	.667	—
Denver	44	29	.603	4 1/2
Portland	43	31	.581	6
Utah	36	39	.480	13 1/2
Minnesota	17	57	.230	32

Pacific Division

y-L.A. Lakers	53	20	.726	—
Phoenix	36	36	.500	16 1/2
Golden State	32	42	.432	21 1/2
L.A. Clippers	29	45	.392	24 1/2
Sacramento	20	52	.278	32 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Charlotte 87, Milwaukee 86
Indiana 107, Boston 100
New York 113, Orlando 106, OT
Philadelphia 97, Chicago 85
Portland 100, San Antonio 92
Washington 100, Utah 95, OT

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tagaman and Taga Kids Winners

Koreans celebrate after receiving their medals from DFS' Ben Babauta, left.

Relay race runners-up, from right, Jeff Race, Grace Kimball, and Kieran Daly join Delta Air Lines' Esther Sound during the awards ceremony for the 2011 Tagaman Triathlon at the Pacific Islands Club.

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Taga Kids U15 winner Erico Castro smiles after receiving his medal.

Men's relay first finishers, from left Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, Paul Anthony, and Rene Calage pose for a group photo.

From left, Florence Antonio, Irma Halaby, and Joshua Berger smile after receiving their third place medal in the mixed relay race.

The Top 3 finishers in the boys 6 to 8 age group pose for a photo.

The Top 3 placers in the girls 6 to 8 age group pose for a photo.

DFS' Ben Babauta congratulates 40 to 44 age group runner-up Lewie Tenorio of Saipan.

Cesar Fortaleza, left, and Chang Wang Jang receive their runner-up medal in the men's relay race. Also on the team, but not in the photo is Daniel Villegas.

Denise Marinner, left, and Julia Lendvai pose for a photo after getting their first place medals.

Former girlfriend Bell tells of Bonds' steroid use
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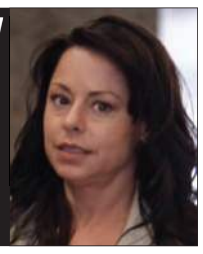

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Anthony scores 39, Knicks top Magic in OT
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Third win for Kevin; two for Butch

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan's Kevin Carey and Butch Sublemente brought their winning ways off-island after prevailing in their respective races in the 2011 XTERRA Guam on Saturday.

Carey teamed up with Guam's Michelle Ysrael and Jude Baker in topping the mixed relay division of the weekend race. Carey did the 31-kilometer mountain bike split and timed in at one hour, 58 minutes, and 36 seconds (17th best among 88 bikers). Ysrael recorded 16:21 in the 1-km swim, while Baker posted 57:11 in the 8.2-km trail run for the team's combined time of 3:12:37. The trio was way ahead of the mixed runner-up team, which logged 3:37:59, and tallied the third fastest time overall among 22 relay squads.

The win in Guam was Carey's third relay

See THIRD on Page 26

Enamo Meta upsets Sakudi; Natibu, Phat Boyz still perfect

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Natibu and Phat Boyz remain undefeated in the men's division, while Enamo Meta issued Sakudi its first loss of the season in the women's division at the conclusion of last Friday's 2nd Annual Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League matchups at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Phat Boyz brushed off Red-Eye, 21-5, in six innings, while

See ENAMO on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
Phat Boyz's cleanup batter Byron Kaipat swung 4-for-4 with three homeruns against Braddahs in their 2nd Annual Budweiser Slow Pitch Softball League matchup at the Capital Hill Ballfield last Friday.

10 teams seal playoff seats

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ten pairs had already secured playoff berths in the women's doubles division of the 2011 Tan Holdings Mixed/Doubles Badminton Competition after the games over the weekend at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

Leading the list were the teams of Michelle Caleon and Annarose Omori and Lani Bartolome and Marlene Peraja, who hold identical 5-1 records. Caleon

See 10 TEAMS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Heo In Souk, seen here going for a shot near the net during her and Gary Bandoja's mixed B doubles game, advanced to the playoffs of the women's B doubles division of the Tan Holdings tournament with teammate So Young Lee after last weekend's games at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

Frank Sablan rules Fr. Manny Memorial Classic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Frank Sablan showed consistency at the Marianas Country Club to win the Father Manny Memorial Golf Classic held on Saturday.

The 12-handicapper golfer shot a 41 on both nines for a gross 82 and net 70. Sablan won over 53 other golfers, including eventual runner-up and veteran par-buster Jess Wabol, who carded a net 70.4. Wabol fired the lowest gross of the day with a 2-over par 74, tying former Superior Court presiding judge Ed Manibusan. Deducting his 3.6 handicap in the double-peoria tournament, Wabol ended up short of passing Sablan's net score. Wabol had an even 36 in the first nine holes and then slowed down a bit in the last nine with a 2-over par 38.

Tying Wabol with a net 70.4, but dropping to third place was Freddie Cataluna, who drilled a 42 and 44 on the front and back nines for a gross 86 and held a 15.6 handicap.

The Top 10 placers in the weekend tournament received

See FRANK on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
First placer Frank Sablan, left, joins other winners and Father Ryan Jimenez, center, for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the Father Manny Memorial Golf Classic at the Marianas Country Club on Saturday.